Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-051
Wednesday
16 March 1994

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-051 *16 March 1994*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Arab-Israeli Talks

Foreign Ministry: Progress Made in Tunis Talks *[HA'ARETZ 16 Mar]* 1

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat: No Return to Talks Until Demands Met *[MENA]* 1
'Arafat Meets Russian, U.S., Norwegian Envoys 2
Receives Russia's Posuvalyuk *[Algiers VOP]* 2
Meets With Dennis Ross *[Algiers VOP]* 2
Receives Norway's Larsen *[Algiers VOP]* 2
Palestinian Leadership Meets, Views Peace Process *[Algiers VOP]* 2
'Arafat's Adviser Urges Amending Oslo Agreement *[Cairo Radio]* 3
Sha'th Assesses Talks, Security Issue Status *[Jerusalem International]* 3
'Abd-Rabbuh on Talks With Ross, Israelis *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 4
Al-Surani Sees 'No Justification' for Negotiations *[London AL-HAYAH 15 Mar]* 5
Islamic Council Urges Boycott of Hebron Commission *[Jerusalem Radio]* 5
Magazine Says Return to Negotiations 'Inevitable'
[Nicosia FILASTIN AL-THAWRAH 13 Mar] 5
Radio Defends 'Arafat Command Against Opposition *[Sanaa VOP]* 6
Paper Calls on U.S. To 'Stop Pressuring' PLO *[AL-QUDS 12 Mar]* 7
U.S.'Collusion' With Israeli 'Terrorism' Assailed *[Sanaa VOP]* 7

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Armed Islamic Group Claims Responsibility for Jailbreak *[London AL-HAYAH 14 Mar]* 8
'Official Quarters' Said Involved *[London AL-HAYAH 15 Mar]* 8
Syria's Al-Shar' Voices Concern About Situation *[Algiers TV]* 9

Egypt

Musa Urges New Israeli 'Attitude' Toward Settlers *[Cairo Radio]* 9
AL-AHRAM Assesses Remarks of Iranian Foreign Minister *[MENA]* 10
Musa Considers Libyan Request for Forces in Aouzou *[MENA]* 10

Western Sahara

Polisario Rejects 2 of 3 Options Proposed by UN *[Algiers Radio]* 10

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Saudi Arabia

'Source' Condemns 'Irresponsible' Remarks by Khamene'i *[SPA]* 11

United Arab Emirates

Defense Minister, 'High-Ranking' Jordanian Envoy Meet *[AFP]* 11

Yemen

Salih Discusses Crisis With Egyptian, Qatari Leaders *[Sanaa Radio]* 12

IRAQ

Foreign Minister on UN Embargo, Resolution 687 *[INA]* 13
Dailies Warn of 'Resistance' If UN Embargo Remains *[INA]* 13
Country To Take 'New Road' If UN Embargo Remains *[INA]* 14
'Aziz Leaves for New York via Amman 15 Mar *[Amman Radio]* 15
'Aziz To Begin Talks 16 Mar *[INA]* 15
Army-Based Opposition Group on Plans To Overthrow Regime *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 14 Mar]* 16
Arrest of Army Officers 'Continuing' *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 15 Mar]* 16
Details of Arrests Noted *[Voice of Rebellious Iraq]* 17

ISRAEL

Beilin on Negotiations, Security of Palestinians *[Paris LE FIGARO 15 Mar]* 18
Kakh, Kahana Hay Offices Close for 6 Months *[Jerusalem TV]* 19
IDF Forewarned of Settler Attacks on Arabs *[HA'ARETZ 15 Mar]* 19
Hebron Dignitaries Ask Shahaq To Lift Curfew *[Jerusalem Radio]* 19
Commentary Criticizes Levinger Arrest *[HATZOFE 15 Mar]* 20

JORDAN

Prince Hasan, Croatian President Hold Talks *[Amman TV]* 21
Hasan Meets Bosnian President *[Amman TV]* 21
Minister, Israeli Official Discuss Transport Links *[Jerusalem International]* 21
Official Leaves To Open Bank Branch in West Bank *[Amman Radio]* 21

LEBANON

Central Security Council Discusses Investigations *[Beirut Radio]* 22
Minister Defends Security Measures in Ghidras *[VOM]* 22
Arrest of Ba'labakk Demonstrators Ordered *[Beirut Radio]* 23
Resistance Attacks Israeli Patrol in South *[AFP]* 23
Hizballah Attacks Israeli Patrol in 'Arnun *[VOL]* 23
Hizballah Marks International Jerusalem Day *[VOM]* 23
Explosive Charge Found Outside al-Nab'ah School *[Beirut Radio]* 23

SYRIA

Papers Comment on Rabin's Washington Visit *[Damascus Radio]* 24
Press Ridicules Security Council 'Farce' *[SANA]* 24
Commentary Urges End to 'Zionist Belligerence' *[Damascus Radio]* 25
Article Examines Syrian-Lebanese Common Market *[AL-BA'TH 21 Feb]* 26

SOUTH ASIA

India

Paper Views Use of Super 301, Clinton 'Megalomania' *[INDIAN EXPRESS 9 Mar]* 28
Visit of U.S. Envoy 'Expected' To Lead to Rao U.S. Visit *[THE HINDUSTAN TIMES 3 Mar]* ... 28
Demonstrators Present Petition at U.S. Embassy *[Delhi Radio]* 29

Iran

U.S.' 'Unconditionally Supportive' Policy of Israel Noted *[Tehran Radio]* 29
Commentary Assesses U.S. 'Influence,' 'Intervention' *[Tehran International]* 30

Arab-Israeli Talks

Foreign Ministry: Progress Made in Tunis Talks

TA1603085794 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 16 Mar 94 p A3

[Report by Yerah Tal]

[Excerpt] Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir said yesterday that in the Tunis talks, "progress was made in forging renewed understanding between the sides and in examining the possibilities for continuing the peace process." Savir said that "Israel and the PLO understand that there is a need to create an appropriate atmosphere in the territories to alleviate the situation and instill a greater sense of security and trust in the political process."

The Israeli representatives said that Israel is prepared to make additional concessions toward the Palestinians and to agree to expand the Palestinian police force to 9,000 men and increase the number of weapons at its disposal. Israel had earlier agreed to a 6,000-strong force. 'Arafat is not satisfied with these steps and is demanding a series of additional moves, most of which are unacceptable to Israel.

[Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 16 March, in a related report by Pe'erli Shahar on pages 1 and 8, adds that "in the delegation's meetings with Yasir 'Arafat in Tunis, it was made clear to him that Israel has agreed to the deployment of international forces throughout the territories, except for Jerusalem, on condition that they are unarmed."]

Referring to the specific steps to be taken, Savir said that Israel, for its part, took very tough measures against the extremists, but added that "there are steps that must be coordinated with the Palestinians to prepare the ground for the resumption of the process." Savir noted that the Tunis talks advanced the possibility of a direct dialogue on those issues. "It is obvious that Israel is serious about its intention to contribute to security on the ground for Arabs and Israelis alike, and the Palestinian side made it clear that despite the difficult obstacles along the way, it intends to implement the Declaration of Principles, which will bring a drastic change on the ground."

Savir also said that "those who speak about stopping the process in the wake of the terrible massacre are, in fact, caving in to extremists and murderers, and that is not in the interest of either side." Savir believes, therefore, that the process will continue to make progress and that the Tunis talks were a step in that direction. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat: No Return to Talks Until Demands Met

NC1603095594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0912 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Text] Tunis, 16 Mar (MENA)—MENA's Tunis correspondent has learned that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has turned down a U.S. proposal to meet Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Cairo or Alexandria before the UN Security Council issues a resolution about the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre and Israel declares that it will implement it, especially in connection with providing security for the Palestinians in the occupied territories and dismantling the settlements.

'Arafat also turned down a proposal by Dennis Ross, the U.S. coordinator for the Middle East peace process, for a meeting between Rabin [as received] and PLO Executive Committee member Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas] or another Palestinian official. 'Arafat said the PLO cannot return to the negotiations unless its demands pertaining to international protection and the settlements are met.

'Arafat asked Ross to provide a mechanism to implement the Security Council resolution if it is adopted but Ross told him Israel would never accept anything like that. 'Arafat also requested international forces in Hebron alongside a Palestinian force. He also demanded that the settlements in the city be dismantled.

A senior Palestinian source revealed that Ross brought no new U.S. proposals to his two meetings with 'Arafat in Tunis two days ago and that he asked 'Arafat to accept the proposals included in Warren Christopher's message dated last Thursday in which Christopher suggested that the PLO should return to the negotiating table with Israel so that a Security Council resolution could be issued.

Ross insisted that 'Arafat should issue a signed acceptance of Christopher's message so that the United States could agree to submit the draft Security Council resolution to a vote and not veto it. 'Arafat turned down this demand, which was viewed as part of the U.S. pressure on the PLO.

Christopher suggested in his letter that the negotiations between the PLO and Israel be resumed according to a timetable beginning last Monday [14 March] with a meeting between Abu-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'], head of the PLO Economic Department, and Uri Savir, director general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, to be followed by a meeting in Washington between Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas] and Shim'on Peres, and finally a meeting between 'Arafat and Rabin in Cairo.

The Palestinian leadership expressed dismay at the threatening content of Christopher's message to 'Arafat, the call to return to the negotiating table in Washington in response to President Clinton's invitation, and Christopher's insistence that the PLO should make a declaration about resuming the negotiations with Israel before a Security Council resolution is adopted.

The Palestinian leadership also expressed dismay at Christopher's request to 'Arafat not to make any new demands during the negotiations and not to allow any other party, "meaning Russia," to intervene in the peace process either by making proposals or submitting new initiatives.

The Palestinian leadership described the U.S. attitude as "totally biased" toward Israel, even worse than the Israeli attitude.

'Arafat told Ross that the negotiations could not be resumed because of the widespread popular anger in the occupied territories unless a Security Council resolution was adopted providing protection for the Palestinians living under occupation, disarming the settlers, and supplying U.S. and Israeli guarantees for this purpose.

The Israeli delegation that met 'Arafat and included Rabin's adviser Jacques Neriya; Uri Savir, the Israeli Foreign Ministry's director general; and Uzi Dayan, director of planning at the Israeli Defense Ministry submitted no new proposals or positions.

The delegation members told 'Arafat that they were not authorized to adopt any stance or make any proposal and that their mission was only to listen to him and to the views of the Palestinian leadership on how to resume the peace process.

The delegation informed 'Arafat of the Israeli Government's decision to outlaw the extremist Kakh and Kahana Hay movements and to disarm some settlers in settlements where extremists are found. They also informed him of Israel's acceptance of the deployment of unarmed international observers outside Gaza and Jericho and its decision to expedite its withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho.

A senior Palestinian source revealed that had it not been for the Hebron massacre, 'Arafat and Rabin would have signed the final agreement on implementing the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles in Cairo on 10 March.

The source added that the Cairo and Taba negotiations on the crossing points, the Palestinian police, and the autonomy administration were already over and drafts of the final agreement had been drawn up. The massacre ruined everything and made even the Declaration of Principles subject to total failure.

'Arafat Meets Russian, U.S., Norwegian Envoys

Receives Russia's Posuvalyuk

LD1503184094 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 15 Mar 94

[Text] The brother leader received for the second time in 24 hours Mr. Viktor Posuvalyuk, the personal envoy of Russian President Boris Yeltsin, within the context of the continued Palestinian-Russian contacts to discuss the current developments following the Ibrahimi mosque massacre in Hebron.

Brother President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] also discussed with the Russian envoy the ways and means that stress the need to recognize the resolutions on the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre, and also in connection with the international protection for our people and our Islamic and Christian sanctities.

The current situation was also discussed at the different levels.

Meets With Dennis Ross

LD1503185394 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 15 Mar 94

[Text] Brother President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] received U.S. Special Envoy Dennis Ross for the second time last night.

This meeting came in continuation of the meeting that was held yesterday morning and lasted for three hours in the presence of the members of the two delegations.

A totality of issues in connection with protecting the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and the developments of the peace process, in addition to the talks currently under way at the UN Security Council on the resolution condemning the massacre at the Ibrahimi mosque, despite the fact that this delay until Monday, 14 March 1994, was submitted by the U.S. representative last Saturday when the Russian representatives insisted on casting the votes at that time, were discussed in the meeting.

Receives Norway's Larsen

LD1503183694 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 15 Mar 94

[Text] The brother leader, Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], received for the second time last night, the Norwegian envoy, Mr. Kari Nordheim Larsen, undersecretary of the Norwegian Foreign Affairs Ministry, within the context of the intensified contacts currently under way with all sides for ensuring the faithful, precise, and immediate application of the Declaration of Principles, and finding the best means for protecting the Palestinian people from the massacres committed by the Israeli settlers in the occupied territories.

Palestinian Leadership Meets, Views Peace Process

LD1503191494 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 15 Mar 94

[Text] The Palestinian leadership held a meeting this morning, Tuesday 15 March, under the chairmanship of Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], the president of the state of Palestinian and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee.

The leadership was briefed at the meeting on a number of contacts that took place during the last few days with the envoys of the U.S. Administration, the Russian leadership, the Israeli Government, and the Norwegian Government to the Palestinian leadership.

An authoritative Palestinian source stated that the Palestinian stance, which has affirmed the need to take urgent and necessary measures to protect the Palestinian people in the occupied territories following the massacre of the al-Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron, and to take radical steps to uproot Israeli terrorism, was reiterated to the envoys.

The source added that the PLO, while reiterating its commitment to the peace process and its aims, would like to stress the need for urgent action in order that such a process would regain its dynamism and credibility, and in order to create suitable opportunities for making the Declaration of Principles, signed between the PLO and the Israeli Government, successful as soon as possible.

The source added that the contacts and meetings, which were held with both the U.S. and Israeli sides, have not produced any real progress that will help in overcoming the hurdles facing the peace process, because of Israel's determination not to take effective and real measures, particularly in Hebron and elsewhere, its insistence on only taking a number of superficial and routine steps and bypassing the stance of the international community, which is being supported by a large part of Israeli public opinion, and on the need to take effective measures to put an end to the terrorist activities of the Israeli settlers, a matter that was also recently boosted by the agreement between Rabin and the SHAS Party.

The source added that the PLO stressed that the task of the peace process was to insure security for all. That was why the Palestinian people and all the forces that supported peace in the region were doubtful about the seriousness and credibility of the process in light of the grave threat to the security of the Palestinian people, as a result of the presence of hotbeds of Israeli terrorism in the settlement areas in the occupied territories, and the lack of international protection for the Palestinian people under occupation.

The source said that the PLO stressed that it was impossible to overlook the Hebron massacre, its causes, effects and lessons, and that the Israeli Government, which bore full responsibility for the massacre, had encouraged the stepping up of campaigns of repression and killing against the sons of our people after the massacre, and attempted to ignore the fact that the massacre was the outcome of the settlement-based and expansionist ideological structures, and was not the action of an individual or individuals.

The official source stressed that while refusing to divert its attention from the core of the matter and the massacre, the PLO emphasized its rejection of any pressures and attempts to compromise on the implementation of the necessary requirements for the protection of the sons of the Palestinian people.

The source stressed that while calling on the sons of the Palestinian people to consolidate the unity of ranks, the PLO affirmed that it would continue to work at all levels to insure the security, stability, and protection of the Palestinian people in the framework of any move toward achieving a just and comprehensive peace.

The leadership continues to follow up the situation with all the concerned parties and at all levels.

'Arafat's Adviser Urges Amending Oslo Agreement

NC1503190694 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 15 Mar 94

[Text] Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi, adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, today said that the PLO is still committed to the Middle East peace process but wants a clause added to the Oslo accords. The new clause would call for the creation of a security presence [wujud amni] in the occupied territories and for the separation of Jewish settlers and Palestinians in sensitive areas.

Meanwhile, the PLO attributed the failure of the talks held yesterday in Tunisia with Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator on the peace process, to Israeli reluctance to take effective measures in Hebron and other areas. According to the PLO, Israel only took cosmetic measures following last month's massacre in al-Ibrahimi Mosque.

Sha'th Assesses Talks, Security Issue Status

JN1503180994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1530 GMT 15 Mar 94

[Telephone interview with Dr. Nabil Sha'th, head of the Palestinian delegation to the Taba talks, in Cairo, by Sa'id Mu'addi in the studio, from the "With the Events" program—live]

[Text] [Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil: Good evening, and many happy returns.

[Sha'th] Good evening sir, and many happy returns.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil: Did the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations reach a stalemate after the failure of the Tunis negotiations?

[Sha'th] In fact, the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre in Hebron is still casting dark shadows on the peace process. In fact, overcoming this crisis requires much effort and a true sense of responsibility toward the Palestinian people's security in the occupied territories. What is required is not just a security Council resolution, but measures to enable the Palestinian people to enjoy true security, so the peace process can produce the results we all planned for and which we were about to see just two days before the massacre.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil: Do you believe Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's visit to Washington will result in the resumption of Israeli-Palestinian negotiations in the future?

[Sha'th] We are waiting to see the results of that visit. We believe Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is the one who can decide that Israel will solve the present problems. However, we will wait to see the results of that visit.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil: Are the channels of communication between the PLO leadership and Israeli officials still open, or are they still closed?

[Sha'th] There was an Israeli delegation in Tunis a few days ago to hold talks with the PLO leadership. Before

that, there was another delegation here in Cairo. I do not believe the problem lies with the channels of communication. Such channels of communication in our world and in this age are not a problem, since the peace process is still going on. The problem lies in the absence of a decision to solve the problems facing us.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil: Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said the PLO attaches great importance to the Security Council's resolutions and noted that previous Security Council resolutions were not effective.

[Sha'th] The UN resolutions issued during the Cold War were frozen, due to differences between the big powers and their allies. The situation now is different. We cannot accuse the United Nations of bias toward certain sides. The United States enjoys a strong influence in this regard. It is the side that can put these resolutions into effect. Therefore, a Security Council resolution, like the one that led to the repatriation of the deportees, should be effective and should be implemented. Otherwise, such resolutions are worthless. We want a resolution to ensure true security for the Palestinian people, at least until the Palestinian entity is established and the Palestinian police are launched.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil Sha'th: Thank you very much, and many happy returns.

[Sha'th] You are welcome, and many happy returns.

'Abd-Rabbuh on Talks With Ross, Israelis

JN1503133594 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1220 GMT 15 Mar 94

[Interview with Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, head of the PLO Information Department, by Faridah al-Shubashi; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Shubashi] Mr. Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, head of the PLO Information Department, following the intensive meetings held by PLO in Tunis with the Israeli delegation, the U.S. delegation, and the Danish mediator, what is the situation now?

['Abd-Rabbuh] In fact, these meetings have not achieved any positive results. We have not achieved progress on the issues we discussed. The U.S. side still seeks to link the issuance of a Security Council resolution to an agreement on a date to resume the talks.

We reiterated that the Security Council resolution will only be of value if it ensures practical steps on the ground to guarantee international protection for the Palestinian people. The issuance of such a resolution is a responsibility shouldered by the international community, not a bargaining card to resume the talks. Therefore, I can say that no progress was achieved in the talks with the United States. Anyhow, the ball now is in the U.S. court. The Americans are required to give answers regarding the Security Council resolution, which should be issued immediately after a delay of approximately three weeks, as well as regarding their stand vis- a-vis the provision of international protection for the Palestinian people.

We believe that the issue of negotiations is not a procedural matter. We believe that the objective of the talks, in fact the whole peace process, is to provide security for the Palestinian people and to guarantee their rights. If the security of the Palestinian people will continue to be endangered—as was proven by the massacre of the al-Ibrahimi Mosque—what then is the value of the talks and their resumption in this case?

Regarding the talks with the Israeli delegation, the delegation that came [to Tunis] was not authorized to hold any serious discussion. What was conveyed to us was no more than formal and secondary decisions issued by Israeli Government and about which we heard. Such decisions will not change the situation on the ground. The settlements and settlers continued to be a source of continuous and daily danger to the life of the Palestinian people as well as a source of threat to the peace process and to any agreement that might be reached regarding the transitional period.

The Israelis now know our position very well. The peace process is linked with effective measures on the ground, foremost of which is ending the settlers' presence in the heart of Hebron and in a number of settler centers that represent permanent hotbeds of tension and explosion. Measures include tackling the issue of the presence of armed settlers, especially in Palestinian towns and villages, and providing international protection, especially in Hebron where Palestinian security is exposed to permanent threats.

[Al-Shubashi] Has the Palestinian leadership succeeded in presenting all these issues to the U.S. side? Is the U.S. side still insisting that the Palestinians are the ones who should offer concessions?

['Abd-Rabbuh] The U.S. side expressed understanding of Palestinian demands, but wants talks to resume and wants a date for this to be fixed. For our part, we said the Palestinian people and all the forces that want the peace process to succeed in the region hold the view that the success of any negotiations is now linked with practical measures on the ground, sponsored by the international community. On the one hand, this is international protection, and on the other hand, this is Israel shouldering the responsibility to end the armed settler presence and the activities of the settlers. Therefore, the the United States is looking for formal measures. We are looking for substance, so these measures can lead to the successful conclusion of resuming negotiations.

[Al-Shubashi] Perhaps the United States has monitored the overwhelming popular anger in the Arab and Islamic worlds. There is also the suspension of talks by Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan pending the resolution of this issue, or until the Security Council issues a resolution on the Hebron massacre. Do you think these factors have had any effect on the developing U.S. position?

['Abd-Rabbuh] In fact, the United States is now facing Arab, Islamic, and even Christian indignation on a very large scale in our region and the world. The United States

is hindering the UN Security Council resolution and is trying to use this resolution as a bargaining chip for the sake of resuming negotiations. The United States does not take the dire conditions in the Palestinian territory with any seriousness—conditions liable to explode at any moment. Therefore, the U.S. reaction is not commensurate or in line with the serious implications of the current situation. Therefore, we hold the United States basically responsible for any negative developments that might appear in the phase.

On the other hand, we now welcome the call to hold a meeting of the foreign ministers of the five Arab states concerned with the peace process. We hope it will be held within the next few days to implement stands among us, especially in light of the results of the U.S. position and Israeli intransigence.

[Al-Shubashi] Thank you, Mr. Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh.

['Abd-Rabbuh] Thank you.

Al-Surani Sees 'No Justification' for Negotiations

PM1503164294 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 15 Mar 94 p 5

[Report by Ashraf al-Faqiyy: "Al-Surani Tells AL-HAYAH: Resumption of Negotiations Would Lead to PLO's Liquidation"]

[Text] Cairo—An authoritative Egyptian diplomatic source yesterday described Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's decision declaring the "Kahana Hay" and "Kakh" to be terrorist movements as "a step in the right direction but not sufficient to provide full protection for the Palestinian people in the occupied territories."

In a statement to AL-HAYAH the source urged the Israeli Government to protect the Palestinians and comply with the fourth Geneva convention concerning civilians living under occupation. The source also stressed "the need to resume the peace talks as soon as possible."

Meanwhile, PLO Executive Committee member Jamal al-Surani has attacked Israel, saying that "Rabin's decision concerning Kakh and Kahana Hay is no more than the first letter in the alphabet." He said that the "real terrorism is the one practiced by the Israeli Government itself through the continuation of settlement building in the occupied Palestinian territories and the racial discrimination policy."

In a statement to AL-HAYAH he said that Kakh and Kahana leaders do not differ much from Begin, Yitzhaq Shamir, Ariel Sharon, and Rabin himself. He described them all as "hostile settlers and colonialists prompted by their love for expansionism." He said that "the Zionist tree is a harmful tree that consumes oxygen and releases carbon [dioxide]."

Al-Surani pointed out that there are "no justifications for so-called peace negotiations. They are merely a waste of time." He said: "About 30 months have elapsed since the Madrid conference and still nothing has been achieved, and 30 years will be spent in vicious circles."

He added that "Israel's persistence in building settlements and Judaizing Jerusalem is the result of the continued U.S. support. The United States is an adversary and a judge at the same time. The Palestinians' resumption of these talks would lead to the liquidation of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people."

Al-Surani attacked the foundation on which the Madrid conference was launched, "because it overlooked Jerusalem, the refugees, and the settlements, and there is now nothing over which to negotiate."

Meanwhile, Palestinian ambassador in Cairo Sa'id Kamal has stressed that the PLO will not resume the talks with Israel before the Security Council adopts a resolution condemning [the Hebron massacre] and before guarantees are offered as regards providing full protection for the Palestinian people.

Islamic Council Urges Boycott of Hebron Commission

TA1303180994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 13 Mar 94

[Text] The Higher Islamic Council in East Jerusalem has called on the Muslim residents of Hebron to boycott the state commission of inquiry into the massacre at the Tomb of the Patriarchs. The Council rejected cooperation with a state-appointed commission on any issue pertaining to the holy places.

Our Arab affairs correspondent Arye Gus has learned that the decision to boycott the Shamgar commission was inspired by Jordan, and contravenes the Waqf's initial position in support of testifying before the commission.

Several days ago, the Hebron Municipality published a proclamation calling for the expulsion of the Jewish settlers from Hebron, the dismantlement of Qiryat Arba' and the other settlements, and the lifting of the closure from the town. The Municipality, which was appointed at the time by the Military Government, also demands the removal of the Jewish synagogue from the Tomb of the Patriarchs and the restoration of the site's Islamic nature.

Magazine Says Return to Negotiations 'Inevitable'

NC1103184394 Nicosia FILASTIN AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 13 Mar 94 pp 14-15

[Article by A. 'Abd-al-Haqq: "Are We Interested in the Fall of Rabin or in Foiling the Settlement Policy? Palestine Wants 'Political Revenge,' Not a Bloody One"]

[Excerpts] Instinct is the worst guide to useful and creative political work; such work needs the ability to apply "a bundle of pressure factors" on the adversary to force him into accepting the Palestinian reading of the Declaration of Principles.

The PLO has gradually built up a cumulative position, presenting specific demands that create a balance between

pushing the peace process onto a more serious course and giving the necessary response to the angry popular reaction to the Hebron massacre as dictated by its duty and role as a representative of the Palestinians. [passage omitted]

It goes without saying that the PLO understands Washington's role and influence in the United Nations. But Palestinian insistence on a Security Council resolution condemning the massacre, calling for an international presence in the occupied territories to protect our people, and indicating that Jerusalem is part of the occupied territories, as a condition for resuming bilateral talks with Israel may lead to some sort of confrontation with the United States, as indications have shown since the massacre. But the PLO, for its part, realizes that the United States has a genuine interest in resuming the negotiations as soon as possible, and this is also the position of other influential international parties with clearer support for our people and cause. Moreover, Israel's position is weak, and it is difficult to defend all its components. All these factors, consequently, help the PLO achieve better political gains that previously offered to it.

An effort for a political achievement does not necessarily require confrontation. That is why the PLO accepted, as President 'Arafat said a few hours after the massacre, U.S. President Bill Clinton's invitation to 'Arafat and to the Israeli prime minister to resume the bilateral talks in Washington as soon as possible. American intervention in the talks, indeed, had been a Palestinian demand for months, and it is not right to abandon it when opportunity knocks. The conditions for taking up the invitation must be satisfied, basically by the government of Yitzhaq Rabin doing what it must do vis-a-vis the tragedy. [passage omitted]

PLO's hardline position, and the fact that the organization did not immediately respond to exaggerated suggestions that time is not on the side of the Palestinian position, may be in order. But we must understand and realize the fact that these two factors have limits, and that it is inevitable for the PLO to return to the negotiating table. The PLO is not in the business of a revenge governed by instant angry reactions, but is seeking a political achievement that may return things to the right track and make up for our loss in the negotiations in Davos and Cairo, with a view toward adopting the Palestinian reading of the joint Declaration of Principles.

Radio Defends 'Arafat Command Against Opposition

JN1203103294 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 11 Mar 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Brothers, Arab opposition groups that operate from one Arab capital against another usually operate from the capital of an opposition country. This opposition is usually an agent of the host country and not a democratic opposition. This type of opposition is not effective. On the contrary, it may benefit the party the opposition has targeted by exposing this party's enemies. The most effective opposition is a free opposition that neither belongs to another country nor works under its instructions. Such opposition is motivated by ideological or nationalist objectives.

Today, brother leader Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] faces opposition of both types. While we hear a great deal about the opposition of the 10 factions in Damascus, as well as that of others, I have always sensed that opposition by the Palestinian intellectuals abroad is by far more effective than any of the opposition groups that cannot refute charges of agentry. Perhaps Professor Edward Said is the best example of effective opposition. The man, who greatly contributed to the PLO winning respect in the seventies and eighties, now stands against brother leader Abu-'Ammar and his aides and calls for changes in the Palestinian command. Professor Said has found many sympathetic ears in the East and the West, and in the Arab countries because his opposition, which is based on ideas and interpretations of policies, cannot be a subject of the accusation that face the minor Palestinian factions, whose presence is only felt because they have an office in an Arab country.

Opposition is a right to be exercised by those who have different viewpoints. However, this does not necessarily justify the opposition of certain Palestinian intellectuals just because they cannot be accused of agentry and subservience. Although opposition is necessary to show that the Palestinian political course is a democratic course, I believe that the cons of this opposition by far exceed the pros.

One of its positive aspects of opposition is its shock value. It forces the Palestinian command to realize that there are people watching and holding it to account, that if it commits a mistake, it cannot hide this fact from the Palestinian people. Thus, the command works more carefully and more accurately. Another positive aspect is that the Palestinian opposition facilitates brother leader Abu-'Ammar's dealing with the West, including the United States. He can cite the pressure that is being brought to bear on him and the opposition he faces during the negotiations to decline offering gratuitous concessions and to call for removing obstacles on the road to an agreement so that he may offer the Palestinians what satisfies them.

On the other side, we find that the following factors work against the opposition:

1. Brother Abu-'Ammar and his partners have maintained the flame of the Palestinian revolution for more than a quarter century. At the end, this has led to the Declaration of Principles and to negotiations that could end with real autonomy rule followed by an independent state.

2. If the agreement is bad and the negotiations are bad, the Palestinians in the occupied territories will have their say when the elections that are scheduled for this year are held. Mr. Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, and his colleagues have a right to resort to ballot boxes after their protracted struggle.

3. The acceptance of the agreement and the negotiations have come in the wake of pressure from the East and the West, and from the Arab countries themselves. Had the PLO persevered in its refusal, the Palestinian cause would have been lost for good over the years in light of the realities Israel is creating and the refusal of the international community to bring pressure to bear on Israel to force it to change its stand.

4. This is the most important point. None of the opponents have an alternative. In practice, there is no alternative to the PLO command. Edward Said himself wrote in both AL-HAYAH, [word indistinct] and THE NEW YORK TIMES that alternatives are not dropping from trees and that capable people are just appearing when there is a void.

While the opponents should fully enjoy their right to oppose, the fourth point suffices to defend Abu-'Ammar and his partners and to reaffirm that it is impermissible to think for one moment of toppling a command for which there is no substitute and then wait for the emergence of an effective command. We could end up with a command that will make us truly regret losing the one we have.

Paper Calls on U.S. To 'Stop Pressuring' PLO

TA1503154894 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 12 Mar 94 p 11

[Editorial: "Improper U.S. Pressure"]

[Text] The pressure being exerted by the United States on the PLO by linking the expected UN Security Council resolution on the massacre at the holy al-Ibrahimi Mosque with the resumption of the talks arouses dismay and amazement. By adopting this position, the United States, which is supposed to play the role of "honest broker" in the peace process, is playing the role of a party that is biased in favor of Israel. It is this role which so far has delayed the Security Council's approval of a resolution on a horrible massacre on which the entire world has commented. Nothing justifies all this procrastination or the delay in adopting this resolution.

Moreover, this U.S. stance enhances the conviction about dual U.S. approaches and positions regarding issues of international legitimacy and international law. It seems this time too, as in previous times, that when talk is over resolutions in the Security Council against the Arab nation or against any Arab state, the United States promotes such resolutions in no time. However, when talk is over resolutions in favor of the Arab nation on the basis of international legitimacy and international law, the United States immediately begins raising conditions and formulas and involves the Security Council in endless foot-dragging. It goes so far as to hint using its veto.

Of course, news agency reports about Washington's objection to referring to Jerusalem as part of the occupied territories, and the reservations and conditions which it is voicing regarding the issue of international protection affirm that Washington adopts the Israeli position and tries to evade international resolutions because of this bias.

Such positions, with which the United States continues to deal with Arab issues, affirm the "honest broker" role's lack of credibility and disqualifies the United States from fulfilling such a role as long as it continues to pursue a policy of bias and double standards and evades international resolutions relating to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

In conclusion, if the United States is really concerned about the peace process in this region and interested in the resumption of a serious and genuine peace process, it should stop pressuring the party that is the victim in the equation and stop alluding to the "U.S. veto" against international legitimacy's resolutions. It should pursue the same standards in dealing with the various issues on the international arena. Without such an approach, it is a grave mistake to believe that the continuation of the present U.S. position might promote the peace process.

U.S.'Collusion' With Israeli 'Terrorism' Assailed

JN1403064794 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 13 Mar 94

[Station commentary: "Israel Cannot Be Both—Enemy and Arbiter"]

[Text] O brothers, O sons of our great militant people, O sons of our glorious Arab nation: The UN Security Council's debates, which began following the big massacre and terrible crime committed by the Zionists at the holy al-Ibrahimi Mosque, have continued day after day and week after week. What is required from the UN Security Council is neither strange nor abnormal. What is required is only a resolution in harmony with its previous resolutions. What is required is a resolution entrenching the objective for which the Security Council and the international organization were established. What is required is a resolution condemning the massacre, defining international protective measures so that the massacre will not be repeated, and demanding the disarming of the settlers who came to our land to commit massacres.

However, days and weeks have passed since the massacre, and no such resolution has been issued. Why? Because the United States is exerting pressure to prevent such a resolution. The United States believes there is no need for resolutions because Israel alone can take such measures, can protect the Palestinians from itself, and can put pressure on its settlers to hold their terrorism at bay. Efforts are being exerted to issue such a resolution by the permanent members of the Security Council, such as Russia, France, Britain, and China, as well as by many European, Arab, Islamic, and African countries. However, the United States, the most powerful country in the world—which speaks day and night about human rights, international legitimacy, and sponsoring the peace process—is resisting this desire for justice by the international community and insists on its support for, bias toward, and collusion with Israel; that is, in favor of terrorism, crime, and massacre.

If we scrutinize the U.S. stand we will find the United States saying to us: Israel is the enemy and the arbiter; Israel is the killer and the savior. This is strange and abnormal logic that runs counter to justice and history. It is logic that pours salt in the wounds and makes those with faith in peace question their faith. This logic destroys the foundations of the peace process. If this happens, the Palestinians are not the only losers. All parties, including Israel and the protector of its terrorism, the United States, will also lose.

Does power and force blind people to this extent? Will Israel continue to commit crimes and seek the protection of the United States?

Algeria

Armed Islamic Group Claims Responsibility for Jailbreak

PM1503141294 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 14 Mar 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Ahmad Muwaffaq Zaydan: "'Great Escape' in Algeria Topples Military Commanders"]

[Excerpts] Algiers, Peshawar, AL-HAYAH—Well-informed sources in Algiers told AL-HAYAH yesterday that an operation at the Tazoult prison (400 km southeast of the capital) which resulted in the escape of more than 1,000 prisoners, among them a large number of members from the armed Islamic groups, has toppled a number of military commanders, reportedly including security director Mohamed Tolba. And while President Liamine Zeroual has stressed his determination to continue the "serious dialogue," it has been learned that General Khaled Nezzar, former member of the ruling Higher State Council [HSC], has returned to Algeria from Switzerland to supervise the presidency's course. And signs of a campaign the authorities intend to launch against the National Liberation Front [FLN] have emerged. [passage omitted]

In a statement, a copy of which AL-HAYAH received in Peshawar (Pakistan), the Armed Islamic Group claimed responsibility for the operation. It said that it had carried out the attack "after months of planning and training." And that this proves the group's "ability—with Almighty God's help—to strike wherever and whenever it wants, God willing."

It also said that "the daring operation resulted in the freeing of about 1,000 prisoners among them more than 400 mujahidin sentenced to life imprisonment or death." [passage omitted]

In the statement the group claimed responsibility for murdering Abdelkadir Alloul, commander of the operations zone in Oran.

In a separate statement, a copy of which AL-HAYAH has received, the "amir" of the Armed Islamic Front (eastern district) attacked some Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] leaders like Kamal Boukhadra and Mohamed Karar, criticizing their recent statements that armed action would be suspended if the authorities offer certain concessions. He also attacked Cheikhs Abdallah Jaballah (Ennahda movement) and Mahfoud Nahnah (HAMAS) and other advocates of dialogue. [passage omitted]

It has been learned that military officials will be removed from their posts as a result of the jailbreak operation. More than one source has confirmed to AL-HAYAH that Security Director Tolba has resigned and that General Bachin [as transliterated] (former military security director) is a candidate for the security minister's post. Maj. Gen. Zeroual received Bachin some time ago.

Well-informed sources have stressed to AL-HAYAH that their information indicates that an "all-out confrontation" between the authorities and the armed groups is not ruled out. The sources pointed out that the authorities are "under pressure" to adopt this option, of which Maj. Gen. Zeroual does not seem to approve, as he stressed in a speech addressed to the Algerian people on the occasion of 'Id al-Fitr his determination to continue the "serious dialogue" with anyone that respects the Constitution. [passage omitted]

AL-HAYAH has learned that unknown elements sneaked into the residences of five ministers and a former wali in al-Sunubar Club (northwest of the capital) and managed—despite the tight security—to enter their homes and leave threatening messages and a warning in the form of a slaughtered or suffocated animal (cat) inside the ministers' bedrooms.

Meanwhile, AL-HAYAH has learned from sources close to the Interior Ministry that a plan is being prepared to hit the FLN, because it has not cooperated with the government. And it has been reported that some Algerian wilayas have begun to announce their breakaway from the FLN and urge "loyalty" to the state.

Some sources expect the campaign against the FLN to be represented in the expulsion of about 400 employees belonging to the FLN from their posts in government institutions.

At another level, information—almost corroborated—says that the HSC is still in power. And that it is still in control of the keys to power, and that Fadhil Saidi, architect of the HSC, who mediated between Gen. Khaled Nezzar and Gen. Liamine Zeroual, is still an influential party to the power "appointments." The information says that he was behind Ahmed Yahya's appointment as director of the president's office, and that he is now making new nominations.

The information says that Khaled Nezzar has returned from Swtizerland to run the "presidency" closely, and that Ali Kafi, former HSC chairman, has not yet moved out of his residence and has gone back to lead the "Veterans Organization." Tidjani Haddam, member of the council, has become President Liamine Zeroual's "envoy." As for Ali Haroun, he is conducting his "business" from Paris. Redha Malek, member of the council and prime minister, maintains that political stability is represented in his government's remaining in power.

'Official Quarters' Said Involved

PM1503142694 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 15 Mar 94 p 1

[Excerpts] Algiers, AL-HAYAH—AL-HAYAH has learned that the Algerian presidency has received a secret report pointing to "the involvement of official quarters" in the attack on the Siryanah [as transliterated] ammunition factory (40 km west of Tazoult) in Batna wilaya and in the big escape operation from Tazoult prison in the same wilaya. [passage omitted]

The prison's administration has emphasized to AL-HAYAH that the number of "freed" prisoners totals 901, in addition to eight guards, and that 1,400 prisoners are still in the prison. The cell doors were opened for them, but they refused to leave. [passage omitted]

Those observing the escape operation level the accusation of "involvement" at high quarters in power, on the basis of the following:

1. Mohamed Karash, director of Tazoult prison had over the previous eight months sent eight reports to the justice minister, informing him of the intention to attack, the plan, and the timing. He says he "had not received any response until the day of the attack."

2. In an official meeting grouping Interior Minister Selim Saadi; General Abdelhamid Jawadi, commander of the 5th military zone and who is leading the combing operations in the area, in addition to other figures, Abdelsaghir Hamrouche, wali of Batna, raised the issue before participants, so Gen. Jawadi said: "Let them escape," meaning the Tazoult prisoners.

3. Intervention forces near the area arrived in Tazoult eight hours after informing them of the incident.

4. The reports sent to the presidency contain indications that security authorities in neighboring wilayas had knowledge of the attack.

Well-informed sources say that "in view of this accurate and reliable information, decisionmakers are astonished at the negative attitude of those concerned, who failed to take suitable measures to foil the attack plan."

Some circles in Tazoult attribute the question of "avoiding" foiling the operation to the following:

1. The site of the operation is President Liamine Zeroual's city, whose residents are currently subjected to storming and combing operations by Gen. Jawadi's forces. It is a "clear" message. Some people say that what had happened is a "coup attempt," and this rumor has been circulated throughout the country.

2. The attack was carried out while lists of prisoners to be released were being prepared, the lifting of the curfew considered, stages of the dialogue with the Islamic Salavtion Front planned, and the pensioning of 25 high-ranking officers talked about. Those opposed to the dialogue with the Islamists believe that this operation aborts the dialogue and national reconciliation idea, which President Zeroual and most Algerians hope would produce a comprehensive change.

The major attack on Tazoult prison coincided with another attack which is not less important than the first, namely on the ammunition factory situated some 40 km west of Tazoult (birthplace of Gen. Khaled Nezzar). The attack continued for five hours until the intervention of the Air Force, which settled in the clashes in favor of the factory's guards.

Political sources believe that the escalation between the two sides is aimed at thwarting Liamine Zeroual's plan, which—as far as he is concerned—is a question of life or death. The sources did not rule out that the next days may bring other surprises and important changes at the top of the military establishment and the government.

Syria's Al-Shar' Voices Concern About Situation

LD1503200994 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 15 Mar 94

[Statement by Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' at the airport in Algiers upon his arrival on 15 March—recorded]

[Text] I have been assigned by President Hafiz al-Asad to convey a message to his brother President Liamine Zeroual and to listen to whatever President Zeroual wants to tell us about the situation in dear Algeria. Undoubtedly, we in Syria are very concerned and worried about what is taking place here out of our concern for Algeria's unity and its role in the Arab and Islamic arenas, and on the basis of our conviction that President Zeroual's statement on the dialogue was positive and it is bound to lead to the easing of the brotherly people's suffering and to the establishment of security and stability in this country.

Egypt

Musa Urges New Israeli 'Attitude' Toward Settlers

NC1503194394 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 15 Mar 94

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today said that the Middle East peace process will be in great peril unless Israel changes its attitude to Jewish settlers and takes bold steps to ensure the safety of Palestinians.

The foreign minister told REUTER that it is in the interest of all nations participating and interested in the Middle East negotiations to ensure that incidents similar to the Hebron massacre will never occur again.

Minister Musa said that Israel should abandon its current policy concerning settlers and settlements. Israel should also revise its security policy to provide protection for the 2 million Palestinians who live under occupation, for those Palestinians are its responsibility, Musa pointed out.

The foreign minister said that Israel should abandon the policy that Israeli Army forces refrain from confronting armed settlers attacking Palestinians in the occupied territories. It is in everyone's interest that negotiations resume, but only once it is clear that measures, not yet taken, are in place to protect the Palestinians and deal with the settlers and settlements.

Minister Musa said that a UN Security Council resolution calling for an international presence to protect the Palestinians would not only pave the way for the resumption of talks between the PLO and Israel, but also breath life into the stalled Israeli-Syrian and Israeli-Jordanian talks.

AL-AHRAM Assesses Remarks of Iranian Foreign Minister

NC1603074894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0615 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 16 Mar (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AHRAM voices astonishment at Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati's remarks two days ago that Iran will not disagree with Syria if it signs an agreement with Israel; rather, it will show understanding of Syria's circumstances.

The newspaper says in its editorial today that the Iranian statement, while worthy of welcome for indicating a positive change in that country's attitude toward Middle East peace, remains surprising and raises a question as to why Iran is using a double standard in its attitude toward Egypt and Syria.

AL-AHRAM recalls Egypt's attempt, soon after President Mubarak took power in 1981, to open a new chapter in relations with Iran to promote inter-Islamic cooperation and regional stability and security. It adds that the end of the Iraq-Iran war was a strong reason for removing the tension between Egypt and Iran and refers to a recent statement by President Mubarak that an agreement to restore bilateral ties may have been possible at one time but the Iranian leaders were divided among themselves over whether to have it.

The paper notes that the reason given by the Iranian hardliners for not restoring ties with Egypt was their opposition to the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty and says that these hardliners began encouraging deviant terrorists to undermine stability inside Egypt and strongly opposed any Egyptian role in the Gulf.

AL-AHRAM concludes its comment by expressing the hope that the difference between Iran's attitude to Egypt and Syria will not signify that it is using a double standard. It further hopes that Velayati's recent remarks will spell a new development in Iranian policy that will promote greater understanding with the Arab countries, notably Egypt, for the general Muslim good. The paper cites the example illustrated by the unique understanding marking the Cairo-Damascus relationship.

Musa Considers Libyan Request for Forces in Aouzou

NC1503145394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT 15 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 15 Mar (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that the Libyan request to send Egyptian forces to the Aouzou Strip to supervise the Libyan withdrawal from the region and their handing it over to the Chadian authorities is currently under consideration. Commenting on this issue today, he said that a decision will be made proceeding from Egypt's chairmanship of the OAU.

Western Sahara

Polisario Rejects 2 of 3 Options Proposed by UN

LD1503224394 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 15 Mar 94

[Text] The Polisario Front has rejected options A and C of the report of the UN secretary-general presented yesterday to the UN Security Council to break the deadlock in the peace process in Western Sahara. The first option—option A—concerns the organization of a referendum of self-determination next December without taking into account the reservations voiced by the Polisario Front. The third option—option C—is the pure and simple withdrawal of the UN. This, according to sources close to the Polisario, marks the failure of the United Nations and can only lead to the escalation of the conflict and war. As for option B, it envisages the continuation of negotiations as from 30 June in an attempt to secure the agreement of the two parties—that is, Morocco and the Polisario—on the criteria of identification of electors illegible to vote. The Polisario Front voiced reservations on these options [A and C] as explained by the ambassador of Western Sahara to Algiers:

[Begin recording] [Ambassador] The Saharans think that these options need to be amended, that is the commission of identification of voters should be linked to the so-called compromise proposed by Butrus Butrus-Ghali. We think that this compromise is the formulation of the concessions made by our side. The UN Security Council should thus take into account the reservations voiced by the Polisario Front, included in the memorandum addressed to the UN special representative on 25 February. [end recording]

Saudi Arabia

'Source' Condemns 'Irresponsible' Remarks by Khamene'i

LD1603004294 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2242 GMT 15 Mar 94

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 15 Mar (SPA)—A responsible source made the following statement to SPA today:

Many people were amazed by and even condemned the statement by Iranian religious leader 'Ali Khamene'i in his sermon of the blessed 'Id al-Fitr, in which he alleged that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was creating difficulties for the Iranian pilgrims. Everybody knows that the 17th meeting of the foreign ministers of the Islamic states, held in Amman in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan from 3 to 7 Sha'ban 1408 AH, corresponding to 21-25 March 1988, issued a resolution in which the numbers of pilgrims were fixed on the basis of the ratio of people from every state to the number of Muslims in the world. Thus, the number of Iranian pilgrims was fixed according to the text of the above-mentioned resolution, which the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia abides by, as well as all the Islamic states that signed the resolution in the interest of all Muslims.

If some people make allegations which are not objective, out of a personal motive in order to achieve purely local aims, then it is up to the Iranian people to assess and be aware of that.

The source added:

It is a blessing from God Almighty on the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and its king, government, and people that we are honored to serve the Two Holy Places and look after the comfort and safety of pilgrims, so they are able to perform the rites of pilgrimage and minor pilgrimage and visit with all ease. In order to achieve this noble aim and to allow capacity to go hand in hand permanently with the continuous increase in the number of pilgrims wishing to perform pilgrimage, it is necessary to lay down continuous programs for extending the Two Holy Places and provide additional space in the pilgrimage areas. Despite this, and because of the limitation in time and space, the capacity of accommodation requires that one stick to rules in order to give the opportunity to all Muslims from the East and West of the world according to just quotas, and we hope that everybody cooperates with us in the interest of all. [passage omitted]

Regarding Iranian leader 'Ali Khamene'i, who said "the Muslim Iranian people should be given priority over the other peoples in performing this duty" i.e. the pilgrimage duty, the source stated all Muslims are equal before God and that there is no difference between an Arab and a non-Arab, or between a white and a black other than in piety. God Almighty said "The most honored of you in the sight of God is (he who is) the most righteous of you." [Koranic verse].

The source said in his statement that shouldering the responsibility before God and the guests of His house [holy shrine of Ka'bah], and consequently before our conscience, was a matter which we were keen to preserve and endeavor to perform with all our strength "and we shall not pay attention to the low statements made by some or the fabricated media campaigns aimed at causing provocation, confusion, and sowing the seeds of sedition among the Muslims."

The source further said:

We are extremely astonished at the contradiction there is in the way the Iranian leaders are talking to us. While President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, continues to send his letters and his messengers to us with a view to improving relations and bringing closer viewpoints between the two countries, the spiritual leader 'Ali Khamene'i surprises us with improper and irresponsible statements followed by a frenzied media campaign. Which of the two teams should we rely on and which of the two men should we deal with?

However, we reject and condemn the style used by the Iranian media and we also reject the statements made by Mohammad Mohammadi Reyshahri [representative of Khamene'i and supervisor of Iranian pilgrims] and quoted by the French news agency. We warn against the continued use of such a style which does not serve Islamic interests and does not achieve any good objective in this respect.

United Arab Emirates

Defense Minister, 'High-Ranking' Jordanian Envoy Meet

NC1503181194 Paris AFP in English 1502 GMT 15 Mar 94

[Text] Dubayy, United Arab Emirates, March 15 (AFP)—A high-ranking Jordanian official is in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on the first such visit since the Gulf war, the official UAE news agency WAM reported on Tuesday [15 March].

Parliament speaker Tahir al-Masri met Defence Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Rashid Al Maktum in Dubayy late Monday to convey greetings from King Husayn and Crown Prince Hasan, the agency said.

They discussed the Middle East peace process and other Arab issues, it added without giving further details of the visit or saying whether al-Masri would meet President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan.

It was the first visit to the UAE by a senior Jordanian official since Amman was ostracised by Gulf Arab states for its alleged sympathy with the 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. Jordan has denied such support and sought to mend fences with the Gulf but has been rebuffed.

King Husayn tried to meet King Fahd of Saudi Arabia this month during a pilgrimage to Mecca but was shunned.

However he has visited Oman and will go to Qatar. The two countries are the only members of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) that have not severed ties with Amman.

Yemen

Salih Discusses Crisis With Egyptian, Qatari Leaders

JN1503210894 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 15 Mar 94

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman, has spoken by phone with his brother Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt. The two presidents exchanged congratulations on the occasion of the blessed 'Id al-Fitr and discussed bilateral relations.

The brother president and President Mubarak then reviewed developments in the Yemeni arena, and the efforts made [words indistinct] the current crisis, and means of implementing the document of pledge and accord.

The brother Presidential Council chairman talked by phone this evening with his brother His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, amir of the State of Qatar, in which they exchanged congratulations on the occasion of 'Id al-Fitr.

Talks dealt with latest developments in our country and the efforts to overcome the crisis and attain national reconciliation [word indistinct] implementing the document of pledge and accord.

His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani emphasized [words indistinct] eagerness for the continuation of the march of Yemeni unity for the good and interest of the Yemeni people and the (?Arab) nation.

Foreign Minister on UN Embargo, Resolution 687

JN1603083194 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2140 GMT 15 Mar 94

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Mar (INA)—Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf has asserted that the position of the international community at the UN Security Council [UNSC] has clearly tilted in Iraq's favor.

In an interview with Iraqi television aired tonight, the minister added that most UNSC members have actually begun to call for the implementation of Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687, and that their consciences are now burdened by the Iraqi people's sufferings, which are caused by the continued enforcement of the criminal and unfair embargo.

The minister maintained that Iraq is bound to emerge victorious, noting that the Iraqi people's patience is matchless, because they have held out in the face of the most ferocious onslaught in history.

The minister went on to say: Since inspection teams started their work, there has been full compliance with the unfair resolutions passed against Iraq.

The minister wondered how many paragraphs of the unfair resolutions passed against Iraq have violated its sovereignty and independence, how many violations Iraq has suffered, and who drew up the parallels that encroach upon Iraq's national sovereignty.

Al-Sahhaf noted that the game of the handling of Resolution 687 has become clearer, not only to politicians, but also to all citizens, and to all observers who take an interest in this matter, which is in violation of all UN conventions and international laws.

The minister said: Resolution 687 was passed on 3 April 1991 after it was submitted to the UNSC by the arch-leaders of colonialism. Sixteen drafts of this resolution were made. After that, new amendments and changes were introduced into it. Only then was it put to a vote. Twelve members of the UNSC voted in favor of the resolution. Cuba voted against it, because it is a courageous and audacious country. Two nonpermanent members of the UNSC, Ecuador and Yemen, abstained.

Certain countries, such as China, voted in its favor, but explained their positions, criticizing several paragraphs of this resolution.

The foreign minister added: This resolution consists of an introduction and 34 operative paragraphs. It is lengthy and complicated. Its operative paragraphs were deliberately divided into nine sections, the pivotal points are in Section C, which was addressed by leader President Saddam Husayn in his valuable speech the day before yesterday. On 3 April 1991, the resolution was passed. On 6 April 1991 Iraq informed the UNSC of its frank and clear stand on the resolution in a lengthy and refined message grounded in the rules of international law and the UN Charter. Iraq addressed all these paragraphs in accordance with the rules of international law. It explained how these paragraphs violate the rules of international law. At the end of the message, and this is an important thing that I must mention, Iraq, through then Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn, said "while noting these principled, legal, and legitimate remarks, Iraq urges conscientious members of the international community and the public to see the facts as they are, and to vindicate justice as appropriate. Given all of the above, Iraq has no choice but to accept this resolution." We demanded that this message be circulated as a UNSC document. The request was fulfilled.

The minister went on to say: The purpose was to confirm our legal and legitimate rights, which are grounded in the UN Charter and the rules of international law, so that these rights could not be mistaken, even though we accepted this resolution under the circumstances. The second remark I would like to make, which is an extremely important one, is the following: Line 3 of the preamble of Resolution 687 stipulates that all member states are committed to safeguarding Iraq's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and political independence. The authors of this resolution violated the basic concepts enshrined in this sentence in several paragraphs of the same resolution. Several paragraphs of the said resolution conflict with these basic concepts, which are cherished by the international community.

Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf noted that this remark should be made so that we may understand the facts pertaining to the unfair and sweeping embargo clamped on Iraq.

Al-Sahhaf added: Resolution 661 of 6 August 1990 explained why this unfair embargo was imposed. It said that the embargo was imposed because Iraq had not accepted Resolution 660 of 2 August 1990. What about Resolution 660? Resolution 660 consists of two paragraphs calling upon Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait, and urging Kuwait and Iraq to negotiate to resolve their problems. It also states that the UNSC welcomes all efforts to achieve this, especially the efforts of the Arab League.

Al-Sahhaf went on to say: Iraq later accepted all these resolutions, including 660, 661, etc. As for the UNSC, it did not honor its commitments. Then, they drafted this resolution, thus "forgetting about" all their previous resolutions. They set new conditions and brought about a new situation that exposes the true motives for the aggression against Iraq.

Dailies Warn of 'Resistance' If UN Embargo Remains

JN1603110194 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Mar (INA)—Two Iraqi newspapers have urged the UN Security Council [UNSC] to embark on the process of lifting the sanctions clamped on Iraq without delay, particularly since Iraq has honored its commitments as enshrined in the relevant UNSC resolutions.

In an editorial today, the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH says that the United Nations and some other parties have

underscored, from the outset, that the elimination of Iraq's chemical and biological weapons, missiles, and nuclear materiel must be followed by lifting the economic sanctions within the context of a "package deal."

The paper indicates that the "package deal" concept is a legal one. The legal aspect of this concept means that there are reciprocal commitments between Iraq and the United Nations.

The paper goes on to say that using compliance with international resolutions as a tactical cover to make Iraq honor its commitments without expecting the UNSC to honor its own commitments is a dangerous game that undermines the credibility of the United Nations, and opens the door for further crises and regional and international turmoil.

The paper says that those who are concerned about peace, security, and rights are required to honor their commitments, and to act rapidly to deliver on their agreements. The paper warns that Iraq's patience and wisdom in no way means that Iraq will allow the infliction of further destruction and harm on its people.

AL-JUMHURIYAH adds: The United Nations and those standing behind it must understand that peoples have the right to defend themselves, their destinies, and their interests with all available means when the avenues of hope before them are blocked.

The paper addresses the current U.S. position, which is grounded in exposed political motives and objectives. It also touches upon the UN position, as explained by Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the UN Special Commission, which seeks to perpetuate the embargo even after its legal justifications have been removed.

In contrast, the paper notes some positive international and regional changes that have surfaced over the past four months, developments that have signaled that it is high time the embargo clamped on Iraq was lifted, either partially or entirely.

The paper emphasizes that the Iraqi people have observed that the overwhelming majority of nations are now demonstrating an understanding of their positions and of their reasoning after years of misunderstanding. It goes on to say that while the Iraqi people appreciate these stands, they are also capable of changing the current equations, based on their legitimate right to a free and decent living.

Concluding its editorial, AL-JUMHURIYAH wonders: Will Washington understand all this and retreat? Or is it determined to persist with its criminal acts against the Iraqi people, something that would herald new and dangerous political developments in the region, and the world?

The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH urges the UNSC to honor its commitments, as the dictates of fairness and justice require, particularly since Iraq has complied with all relevant UNSC resolutions. If they do not see any hope for removing the injustice meted out against them, our people will have no choice but to decide, along with their leadership, on the means to create other hope, the paper adds.

In an analysis today, the paper asserts that Iraqis have the right to choose the kind of life they want to lead, to resist the embargo with all possible legitimate means, and to demonstrate inventiveness with regard to the form and content of this resistance when they find that hopes for a positive UNSC move are tightly blocked.

The paper criticizes the United Nations' failure to honor its commitments toward Iraq as enshrined in UNSC resolutions, noting that Iraq has demonstrated exemplary commitment and a high sense of responsibility in its dealings with the world body, which professes to be an advocate of fairness, justice, and human rights, to help cope with this or that hurdle in the hope that the UNSC members will rise to the required level of humanitarian and historical responsibility.

For its part, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH blames this failure on the United States and Zionism, contending that they have conspired against Iraq and prevented the UNSC from playing the honest role of lifting the sanctions imposed on Iraq.

The paper adds: The aggressiveness of both the West and Zionism has nothing to do with the events unleashed on 2 August 1990. Rather, it is connected with Iraq's special and effective role, and with the pan-Arab and unity-orientated principles it cherishes. Similarly, it has something to do with the scientific and technological accomplishments Iraq has made—accomplishments that have broken the myth of Israel's superiority in the region.

The paper adds: The prime objective of the United States and Zionism is to weaken Iraq's military and economic capabilities and halt its creative potential.

Country To Take 'New Road' If UN Embargo Remains

JN1503135794 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1015 GMT 15 Mar 94

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Mar (INA)—AL-THAWRAH and AL-QADISIYAH write that President Saddam Husayn's speech to the Cabinet on 13 March has ended a period of wily procrastination and prevarication and put the onus on the UN Security Council to discharge its clear and pressing obligations.

AL-THAWRAH says: Iraqis have endured American arrogance and tyranny and they have watched while the Americans tried to destroy every symbol of civilization in their country, and yet they held their ground.

Over the past four years, Iraq has handled the unfair UN Security Council resolutions with a sense of responsibility and commitment, while the UN Special Commission has been shuttling back and forth between New York and Baghdad. In the meantime, Iraq has had its weapons and factories destroyed, met its obligations, and opened its facilities for future inspection, as well as acceding to

demands that it is certain are unfair. Having gone through this bitter, long, and arduous experience, the Iraqi people and Government are convinced that the page of procrastination and prevarication of the sly fox must be closed. Having seen the results of an unprecedented military aggression and realized that the Iraqi people are not easy prey, the fox has tried prevarication to sap the strength of the Iraqis to make it easier to break their will and destroy their sovereignty.

The paper adds: Iraq is taking on a conspiracy whose weapons are sanctions and no-fly zones imposed under the cover of UN resolutions. But thanks to the genius and wisdom of its historic leader, Iraq has taken a well-considered stand that robs its enemies of all pretexts, especially since Iraq has carried out its obligations and shown every cooperation. Regional and world developments have exposed America's double standard toward Bosnia and the Ibrahimi Mosque massacre. In the latter case, the United States has been blocking the UN Security Council from passing a resolution condemning the massacre.

The paper stresses that all peoples and governments, including [word indistinct] states, are now facing their basic responsibility to address the faults that have been observed in the UN Security Council's view and stands since the outburst of U.S. tyranny and its adoption of the evils of the new world (?order).

The paper notes that the use of the UN Security Council and the UN flag by the U.S. pirates, who inherited all the evils of the old colonialism, not only threatens Iraq's bread and sovereignty, but also the sovereignty and dignity of all states in the world and all peoples aspiring to achieve sovereignty, progress, stability, and the supremacy of justice and fairness in international relations.

AL-THAWRAH said that what is at stake now is the integrity and reputation of the Security Council. The paper stressed that the council should uphold justice and fairness and fulfill its obligations by ending injustice and lifting the sanctions, or else Iraq and its leadership will legitimately choose a new road, a road different from the one it has followed for the past four years, in terms of its approach to resolutions and committees.

Iraq has a legitimate and crystal clear demand: An end to the sanctions and the no-fly zones by the permanent Security Council members, which are required by the council's resolutions to ensure Iraq's sovereignty.

The paper adds: If the evildoers think that Iraq has no other options or that it is incapable of rejecting the injustice that is concealed under the guise of UN resolutions with colonialist interpretations, then they are mistaken. Iraq, with its free will, is living in the age of its historic leader, the victorious knight Saddam Husayn. The years of al-Qadisiyah and the Mother of Battles, as well as the years of the unjust blockade, is sufficient evidence that Iraq is capable of surviving and that it has never lost its choice of options to reach its legitimate, noble goals—sovereignty, dignity, and full rights.

AL-QADISIYAH writes: His Excellency President Saddam Husayn's speech was open and echoed the soul and conscience of the people. It is the last chance for the Security Council to lift the sanctions without delay or conditions.

The people of Iraq and Saddam Husayn speak with one voice and endure the same tribulations. Under his mujahid leadership, Iraqis vie among themselves to see who will sacrifice the most. We have come safely through difficulties and taken off, and with the benefit of our leader Saddam Husayn's resolve and the brilliance of his strategic intellect, we will stay the course.

'Aziz Leaves for New York via Amman 15 Mar

JN1503164294 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 15 Mar 94

[Excerpt] Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz left Amman for New York today for talks with UN officials on monitoring Iraqi weapons and the economic embargo imposed on Iraq.

'Aziz arrived in Amman yesterday en route to New York. He was received and seen off by Dr. Said al-Tall, deputy prime minister and minister of higher education. [passage omitted on expected Security Council meetings]

'Aziz To Begin Talks 16 Mar

JN1603110794 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1015 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Text] The United Nations, 16 Mar (INA)—This afternoon, Baghdad time, Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz will begin contacts with officials of the United Nations and the UN Security Council.

The deputy prime minister has arrived in New York on a visit to the United Nations for talks on the need for the UN Security Council to honor its commitments as enshrined in Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687, which provide for lifting the sanctions clamped on Iraq.

Tariq 'Aziz will hold his first meeting with Jean-Bernard Merimee, the French ambassador to the United Nations and president of the UN Security Council, this afternoon. He will also meet with the representatives of several permanent and nonpermanent members of the UN Security Council.

During his visit to the United Nations, the deputy prime minister will hold talks with UNSC members and with UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Ghali.

Tariq 'Aziz is accompanied on the visit by an Iraqi delegation comprised of Lieutenant General Engineer 'Amir Muhammad Rashid, director of the Military Industrialization Organization; Dr. Riyad al-Qaysi, under secretary of the Foreign Ministry; and several Iraqi experts.

Army-Based Opposition Group on Plans To Overthrow Regime

PM1503151994 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 14 Mar 94 p5

[Report by 'Adnan Husayn: "An Iraqi Military Group Announces the Start of Its Preparations for Overthrowing the Regime"]

[Text] London—Identical reports from the Iraqi opposition abroad and Iraqi citizens who arrived in Jordan last week confirm that the special Iraqi security organs run by President Saddam Husayn's second son Qusayy have arrested a number of army officers on suspicion of links with an underground military group working to overthrow the Iraqi regime which announced itself last January. The sources said that the arrest campaign concentrated on the capital Baghdad and on the Iraqi town of al-Mawsil in the north.

Earlier reports spoke of large-scale arrests, including officers on active service as well as retired officers, in Baghdad and other towns following the distribution of leaflets attacking the Iraqi regime on the occasion of the Iraqi Army's 73d anniversary on 6 January.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has obtained a copy of the first communique issued then by the "provisional national leadership," which, according to Iraqi opposition sources, consists mostly of Iraqi Army officers. According to the communique, this group operates inside Iraq within the ranks of the Army with the aim of overthrowing President Saddam Husayn's regime "and transferring the constitutional powers to the Iraqi people and their institutions" after a six-month transitional period.

The communique declares that "Iraq's giant—the army—has now awakened...to end this tyranny," and that the birth of this leadership "marks the beginning of the march for the destruction of that germ."

An official of an Iraqi opposition group which operates abroad and which has received a copy of the communique, says that it was distributed in Baghdad, al-Mawsil, and other towns and that one of the copies was smuggled out by travelers to Jordan.

The communique appears to have been drafted in simpler and more realistic language than the statements issued usually by professional politicians of the Iraqi opposition abroad, and its emphasis is on a decisive role by the Iraqi Army to change Saddam Husayn's regime.

The group in whose name the communique was issued is probably trying to cause a split within the security and intelligence organs and the Republican Guard, which are under the tight control of Saddam Husayn and members of his family, after the failure to secure their support in past coup attempts.

The communique appealed to "our brothers and sons in the armed forces and internal security forces, including the Army, the Republican Guard, the police, the public security forces, the intelligence forces, and the special security forces, as well as the brothers in the party organizations." It reassured them that their lives and rights would be protected.

This is the first time that a military group has announced itself inside Iraq with the stated aim of changing the regime. In the past such statements were issued by small groups of officers who managed to escape abroad during the years of the Iraq-Iran war, the occupation of Kuwait, and the war which led to the liberation of Kuwait.

The communique said that the next regime should "steer our political and economic courses in a manner suited to our capabilities as a Gulf oil state...to build a modern Iraq and divert its economic resources to the service of its people not, as Saddam did, squander billions and billions of hard currency on the purchase and manufacture of arms of mass destruction and an arsenal which destroyed Iraq and slaughtered its people and which was used to invade Kuwait and threaten the states of the region and undermine their security."

The communique also said that the aim of the group which issued it was to overthrow Saddam Husayn's regime and "transfer power to the people so that they would rule themselves through their representatives elected by free ballot and in the framework of a system of government approved by the people, with emphasis on the impartiality of the judiciary and on the rule of law...without discrimination between Iraq's nationalities, communities, religions, sects, or political or ideological trends, with emphasis on the neutrality of the armed forces and the internal security forces." It stressed that the transitional period during which the group itself would govern would not exceed six months.

Directly addressing the neighboring states and the international community, the "provisional national leadership" said in its communique that it would abide by the "UN charter and resolutions, the Arab League charter, and international conventions." It affirmed that it would "open a new and bright era of relations based on mutual respect and interests. We also emphasize that we would resolve all border problems permanently so as not be preoccupied with them ever again in the future."

Arrest of Army Officers 'Continuing'

PM1503165094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 15 Mar 94 p5

[Text] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—An informed Iraqi source has stated that the arrest of army officers is still continuing, five months after the announcement of the latest abortive attempt to overthrow the regime.

The source said that the detainees include 8th Division Commander Staff Brigadier General Salah al-Juburi and a number of middle-ranking officers and retired officers.

A system for the control of retired officers has enabled the Iraqi Government to impose a procedure on them under which they have to report daily and sign the registers at military industrialization offices and Olympic Committee

offices where they have to appear nominally for work every day, and under which they are not allowed to leave Baghdad or Iraq. This system is supervised by 'Udayy Saddam Husayn, son of the Iraqi president, a responsibility previously shared with him by Husayn Kamil al-Majid, who has been forced by illness to stay home.

Meanwhile, a state of alert continues for the fifth day at the entrances to and in the main streets of the capital where cars are searched and the identities of passengers and pedestrians are checked.

Details of Arrests Noted

JN1503200594 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1800 GMT 15 Mar 94

[Text] The regime continues to be frightened of a possible military coup by officers who oppose the hated regime after the failure of two coups by senior officers in July and August last year. Our informed sources in Baghdad say that tyrant Saddam has retired more Army officers, who will be on their way to disappearing from the scene forever. The source said that the following officers have been retired:

1. Brigadier General Baha al-Din Sami;

2. Brigadier General Malik al-Juburi from the Republican Guard;

3. Brigadier General 'Abd-al-Rahman from the second police force [al-shurtah al-thaniyah];

4. Colonel Husam 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-'Ubaydi from the Republican Guard;

5. Staff Colonel Nazim Saddam al-Rubay'i from the 2d Tank Battalion.

A few days ago, the special security forces launched a large-scale arrest campaign among Army officers because the criminal regime suspects they had secret contacts with groups and cells of officers working to topple the Saddamist regime. The campaign concentrated on officers from Baghdad city and the Mosul governorate.

Beilin on Negotiations, Security of Palestinians

BR1503155494 Paris LE FIGARO in French 15 Mar 94 p 5

[Interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin by Pierre Rousselin in Jerusalem; date not given: "Going Back on Oslo Would Be 'a Very Serious Mistake'"—first paragraph is LE FIGARO introduction]

[Text] Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin was one of the principal architects of the Oslo agreement. He explained to our correspondent in Jerusalem why Israel refuses to make any concessions prior to reopening negotiations with the PLO.

[Rousselin] What condition set by the PLO are you ready to satisfy to ensure the reopening of negotiations?

[Beilin] We cannot talk of preconditions. We have taken steps to deal with the settlers. These are not concessions with regard to the PLO but the result of internal discussions. It is a serious mistake to impose preconditions for the reopening of negotiations. That simply slows down the process whereas we should be accelerating it to conclude a deal as soon as possible.

[Rousselin] The Oslo agreements did not cover the problem that is being posed today, namely protection for the Palestinians...

[Beilin] No, that has been considered very seriously and they will have their own police force. That is the best way for them to protect themselves. That can be implemented very quickly.

[Rousselin] Would not an international presence contribute to Palestinian security?

[Beilin] Such a presence would not have avoided the massacre. We can avoid that sort of thing as long as we are present. The Palestinians will be able to avoid it when they have their own police force. However, I admit that the issue of an international presence is still open to discussion.

[Rousselin] The Gaza and Jericho agreement does not settle the problem of Hebron...

[Beilin] Would an international presence settle the problem?

[Rousselin] I do not know. Maybe if the settlers were disarmed or moved...?

[Beilin] The most important thing is not to take a settler's pistol away from him. For 26 years we considered that we had to protect the Israeli people in the territories from the Palestinians. That was not totally crazy because they were constantly threatened by the Palestinians. We must now deal with the opposite situation. It is an upheaval in our way of looking at things. It was so clear that it was the Palestinians who had to be searched at the entrance to the Tomb of the Patriarchs! That will not occur again.

[Rousselin] Since you have changed your way of looking at things, why not now negotiate provisions for the security of the Palestinians as you did in Cairo for the security of the settlers?

[Beilin] We must discuss the details of how the agreements signed will be implemented. That can be done in just a few weeks. However, that does not require a new general agreement such as the one concluded in Cairo.

[Rousselin] How can you justify the continued presence of settlers in the heart of Hebron?

[Beilin] We have to distinguish between the wisdom of having founded this type of settlement in Hebron, and the question of whether we should change the current situation. Expelling the settlers would be very difficult legally speaking. We would have to justify our actions before the Supreme Court. If they have committed crimes, they will be dealt with by the judicial system. If they are innocent, we will be asked why they are being evacuated. Having said that, I was personally against any cohabitation in the territories from day one.

[Rousselin] You admit that the presence of settlers in Hebron is a mistake yet you refuse to correct this mistake under the pretext of not making concessions to the PLO...

[Beilin] It is a "fait accompli..." The PLO agreed with us in Oslo that we would not move a single settler. To go back on an agreement that was a major step forward for our two peoples would be the gravest error we could ever make. The cost would be enormous. It took us a year to get as far as Oslo...

[Rousselin] Could you not amend the signed agreements?

[Beilin] Rightly or wrongly, we agreed in Oslo not to move a single settler. I understand the criticisms which they (the leaders of the PLO) are being subjected to. I understand their isolation and bitterness. However, if it means taking a step backward, then it is not acceptable. I understand that they want to know what we are doing.

[Rousselin] So you are ready to discuss it?

[Beilin] We will explain to them the measures we have taken on our own initiative and not as a result of discussions with them. We understand their pain and their anger. Naturally, we are prepared to talk about it, not as an obstacle blocking the path to an agreement but to explain to them that we are taking steps as the ruling authority in the territories.

[Rousselin] Why will you not consider redeployment outside of the Arab-populated zones like Hebron, as planned for July on the eve of the elections in the territories?

[Beilin] This redeployment will only come if there are elections. The agreement is very clear on that point and, as you know, the Palestinians are not in full agreement where the elections are concerned.

Kakh, Kahana Hay Offices Close for 6 Months

TA1503193294 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 15 Mar 94

[Report by police affairs correspondent Uri Kohen-Aharonov]

[Text] A short time ago, detectives of the Israel Police National Unit for Serious Crimes Investigation locked the offices of the Kakh and Kahana Hay movements in Jerusalem with chains. Our police affairs correspondent Uri-Kohen Aharonov has just returned from the site and brings us his report:

Tonight was yet another phase in the action by the authorities against extremist elements in Israel. Following a series of administrative arrests and weapons confiscations, particularly among settlers in the territories, police detectives tonight acted against the two big centers of the Kahana Hay and Kakh movements in Jerusalem. They locked the offices of Kahana Hay on Agrippas Street with chains, leaving a closure order signed by the police commissioner on the door, and then proceeded to the offices of Kakh on Usishkin Street.

In the closure order, the police commissioner wrotes that based on Article 6 of the Antiterror Act of 1948 he finds that these two centers constitute bases of terrorist organizations and consequently orders their closure for a period of six months as of this evening, 15 March 1994. We learned from police sources tonight that other measures may be taken tomorrow.

IDF Forewarned of Settler Attacks on Arabs

TA1503122194 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 15 Mar 94 p A1

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[Text] Senior IDF [Israel Defense Forces] sources, including Major General Sha'ul Mufaz, commander of the IDF in the West Bank, issued warnings as far back as December 1993 regarding the danger of attacks on Arabs by settlers. Despite this, Mufaz ordered all the units in the West Bank to refrain from firing at settlers.

A document drawn up by the head of the military government branch of the General Staff Operations Department, Lieutenant Colonel Avi'el Dagan, includes a warning about various disturbances and attacks by settlers. The General Staff ordered that such a pamphlet be drawn up, and it deals with law enforcement with regard to the Jewish population in the West Bank and Gaza. The pamphlet was distributed in the IDF on 12 December 1993.

The pamphlet begins with the following: "As a result of the signing of the Declaration of Principles with the PLO, a new reality has been created in the field. We have recently encountered several instances in which Israelis in the West Bank and Gaza took steps that disturb the public order. The purpose of this document is to provide detailed instructions regarding procedures in such cases."

The document defines the distribution of authority between the IDF and the police with regard to law enforcement in the territories and says that the police will deal only with criminal cases.

The second page of the pamphlet details three categories of anticipated activities by settlers:

"A. Public disturbances, protests, demonstrations on the roads and at junctions, burning tires, setting up roadblocks and other obstacles along the travel axes, and other protest moves characterized by activity that has been coordinated among various elements.

"B. Public disturbances in populated areas, riots, breaking windows, overturning stalls, etc.

"C. Violent activity that may endanger lives by stone throwing, burning property, use of cold-steel weapons, or shooting."

The pamphlet also specifically mentions those locations in which activity of this type is expected. It says: "The centers of such activity in the West Bank and Gaza are, among other places, Hebron and its environs and the Ramallah area...."

Despite everything written in it, the pamphlet informs the soldiers, in an underlined passage, that "it is stressed that a soldier shall not use arms against an Israeli." The pamphlet also includes instructions to officers to clarify to their soldiers what is considered proper behavior toward Israelis who disturb the peace and break the law. Thus, paragraph 5 says that "if the suspect resists arrest, reasonable force may be used to detain him and bring him to the nearest police station. Handcuffs are not to be used except in extreme cases and when there is no other way to execute the arrest."

Yesterday, sources in the General Staff confirmed that the pamphlet was distributed among the soldiers in the West Bank. They noted that the General Staff supported Mufaz's decision to distribute the pamphlet. They pointed out, however, that the IDF has passed to the commission of inquiry that is investigating the Hebron massacre other pamphlets and findings that are also related to the testimony of Lt. Col. Me'ir Tayar, the commander of the Border Police in Hebron, regarding the order not to shoot at settlers under any circumstances.

A senior IDF source said that the pamphlet confirms the claim, raised before the commission, that the commanders in the field received specific orders from the top echelons.

Hebron Dignitaries Ask Shahaq To Lift Curfew

TA1503180894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 15 Mar 94

[Text] Senior IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officers, including the deputy chief of staff, the coordinator of activities in the territories, the commander of IDF troops and the head of the Civil Administration in Judaea and

Samaria, conferred this afternoon with Hebron dignitaries, including the mayor and members of the Chamber of Commerce.

Muhyi-al-Din Nimr, the spokesman of the Chamber of Commerce, told our correspondent Moti Amir that the dignitaries asked the officers to lift the curfew on the city and to allow the residents to return to work and resume normal life. According to Nimr, Major General Shahaq voiced his sorrow over the massacre in Hebron, and said he knew that the enemies of peace had become stronger as a result of this deed. Shahaq pointed out that after the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement it will also be Hebron's turn to attain Palestinian self-rule.

The dignitaries asked the IDF officers to reduce the friction between IDF troops and the local population in order to avert confrontations and riots once the curfew is lifted.

Commentary Criticizes Levinger Arrest

TA1503162394 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 15 Mar 94 pp 1, 2

[Commentary by Moshe Ishon: "The Raid in Hebron"]

[Text] The raid carried out by the police and the security forces against Jewish settlers in the center of Hebron was both unjustified and untimely, although it ostensibly stems from the government's decision to outlaw Kakh and Kahana Hay and to define these two movements as terrorist groups on par with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. We were astonished when the raiders appeared at Rabbi Levinger's door with a warrant for his and his wife's arrest.

The alacrity shown by the police and the security forces is very surprising. If they had incriminating evidence against the residents of Jewish Hebron, then why were they silent until now? The excuse commonly given yesterday, that the government could not arrest suspects before it outlawed the Jewish terror organizations, is unacceptable.

This explanation is not only implausible, it is also fundamentally wrong. The police are entitled to arrest suspects, even without a warrant issued by the government against the Kakh and Kahana Hay activists, and if they have not done so to date, the only reason can be that they apparently did not have enough evidence to convict anyone.

There is also reason to believe that even today they do not have incriminating evidence against the suspects. Therefore, there is no alternative but to view this raid as a deliberate attempt to mollify certain elements, whether among the left-wing partners of the Rabin government or elements linked to the PLO and its associates, who do not conceal their demand to run the Jews out of Hebron.

It is worth recalling that at the cabinet session two days ago, Minister Ya'ir Tzaban demanded to apply the orders issued against Kakh and Kahana Hay on Rabbi Moshe Levinger since he is suspected of having carried out actions ostensibly bordering on terrorism. The prime minister, however, objected to this proposal, noting that it would not hold up before the High Court of Justice.

This apparently, did not stop the police from raiding Hebron and arresting Jews, even those who have no direct or indirect links to the "Jewish terror organizations."

Anyway, it is doubtful that Jewish terrorist organizations really exist. Nevertheless, even if there are suspicions to that effect, there is no room to mention them in the same breath with Hamas and the PLO, as Attorney General Mikha'el Ben-Horin did when he presented the decrees issued by the Rabin government against Kakh and Kahana Hay.

The raid on the Jewish settlement in Hebron takes us back to the darkest of times. It recalls the days of the British Mandate, when British policemen would frequently arrest Jews to protect, as it were, public law and order, instead of arresting Arabs who murdered Jews.

If two days ago, when the government decision was issued, people could be found to justify it, the next day, when the raid in Hebron to arrest "Jewish suspects" began, it suddenly transpired that this was a totally new direction in the government's policy which is meant to hurt Jews without first checking whether arrests without a court warrant, as is customary in democratic regimes, are necessary.

Hence, we would not be overstating our case if we said that the recent steps adopted by the government jeopardize Israeli democracy. The State of Israel might become a police state. Perhaps it is only symbolical that it was the police minister who replied to the no-confidence motions in the Knesset yesterday instead of the prime minister, who by all logic should have responded to them rather than send a proxy....

To sum up, the raid in Hebron should give democracy supporters in the State of Israel cause for concern. The government should be deprived of the right to carry out "administrative arrests" of its political rivals.

In a democratic state, decisions are made by the courts, even when reference is to supposedly terrorist activities....

It is about time the Rabin government understood this!

Prince Hasan, Croatian President Hold Talks

JN1503061594 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 14 Mar 94

[From the "News at Ten" program]

[Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan met Croatian President Franjo Tudjman after he arrived in Zagreb on a brief visit. Besides his meeting with the Croatian leader, Prince Hasan will inspect the Jordanian United Nations peacekeeping force in the former Yugoslav Republic, which has recently been beefed up.

The commander of the Jordanian UN contingent, who is also a head of the UN peacekeeping mission, Ghazi al-Tayyib, and senior officers received the crown prince.

His royal highness is accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-al-Husayn and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal al-Hasan.

The Crown Prince told reporters he was glad to have a second opportunity to discuss with Tudjman efforts aimed at peace in former Yugoslavia:

[Begin Hasan recording, in progress]...discussed with President Tudjman at the gracious reception the ongoing developments in the region. I would like to say how gratified we are to see progress in the ongoing talks in Vienna. We are deeply interested in the concept of a bicommunal community as a first step leading to further cooperation between Croatia and the Bosnian Muslims. And I certainly would like to say that the containment of violence is very much the role to which, we, through the United Nations, have committed ourselves to. [end recording]

Prince Hasan also met the UN secretary general's personal representative in former Yugoslavia, Yasushi Akashi, and discussed the UN peacekeeping operation.

The crown prince left Amman earlier in the day on a two-day visit and was seen off by senior officials.

Hasan Meets Bosnian President

JN1503173994 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 15 Mar 94

[Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, accompanied by His Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-al-Husayn, visited the Bosnian capital, Sarajevo, where he inspected the Jordanian unit in the UN peacekeeping forces at Sarajevo's airport.

His highness met with Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic and discussed the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina and efforts to realize peace there, especially after the recent agreement between Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia.

Talks also dealt with Jordanian efforts within the framework of the international peacekeeping forces operating in former Yugoslavia.

The Bosnian president welcomed His Highness Prince Hasan and hailed the efforts of Jordan, under the leadership of His Majesty King Husayn, including the hosting of a number of Bosnian refugees and injured who received needed medical care at Jordanian hospitals.

In a statement to journalists after meeting with Izetbegovic, Prince Hasan said more Jordanian protection forces will be sent to Sarajevo.

Minister, Israeli Official Discuss Transport Links

JN1503182294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1530 GMT 15 Mar 94

[Text] Jordanian Transport Minister Adib Halasah has said that Jordan has prepared a plan to cooperate with Israel in the transport area, especially in the Elat-Aqaba Gulf region.

Our correspondent said that the Jordanian minister made the statement during a brief conversation with (Elie Danon), spokesman for the Israeli Transportation Ministry, who encountered the Jordanian minister on the sidelines of a European conference on transportation held in the Greek island of Crete.

Official Leaves To Open Bank Branch in West Bank

JN1603131094 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Text] Fayiz Abu-al-'Aynayn, director general of the Bank of Jordan, left Amman today for the occupied Arab territories to supervise the opening of the bank's first branch in Ramallah.

Muhammad 'Ali Ibrahim, the bank's assistant director general, said that work in this bank, which has been properly equipped and staffed with employees, will begin next week. He noted that the branch will open after it receives the approval of Jordan Central Bank. He added that the bank will open other branches in Nabulus, Hebron, Janin, Tulkarm, Jericho, Bethlehem, and Gaza after they are proven economically feasible and are approved by Jordan Central Bank.

Central Security Council Discusses Investigations

NC1503182594 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1400 GMT 15 Mar 94

[Text] The Central Security Council meeting that was held at Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri's palace in Quraytim at noon today has ended. The discussions focused on the security situation in the country and the results of the security measures that have been taken in all Lebanese areas in the wake of the Sayyidat al-Najat Church massacre in Zuq Mikha'il, the attempt to bomb the French cultural center in Ghadir, and the wave of rumors that accompanied these developments. Attending the meeting were Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul; Interior Minister Bisharah Mirhij; Major General Rafiq al-Hasan, Internal Security Forces director general; Public Security Director General Raymond Rufayil; Maj. Gen. Nabih Farhat, state security director general; Public Prosecutor Munif 'Uwaydat; Jabal Lubnan Governor Amin Hammud; and a number of Army and security forces officers. We now hear the resolutions passed at the meeting read by Lieutenant Colonel Dr. Fadl Dahir, secretary of the Internal Security Council:

[Begin Dahir recording] His Excellency Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri chaired a security meeting at his palace at noon today. Attending the meeting were the defense minister, interior minister, the public prosecutor, the legal investigator into the Sayyidat al-Najat Church bombing, the commanders of the security agencies, and the envoy of the Syrian security and intelligence department operating in Lebanon. During the meeting, the conferees reviewed the security situation in the country, the results of security investigations, and the accompanying sweeps and detentions. The meeting addressed the following topics:

1. The meeting reviewed the results of the investigations by the security agencies of the bombing of the Sayyidat al-Najat Church and the ensuing sweeps and detentions that targeted suspects and other defendants in bombings, according to legal arrest warrants. These sweeps covered most Lebanese areas and camps without discrimination from Sidon to 'Akkar. The sweeps, which were carried out by all Lebanese security agencies and occasionally backed by units of the Syrian Arab forces, resulted in the arrest of 127 people.

2. The conferees stressed the Lebanese people's right to resist the Israeli occupation of south Lebanon and western al-Biqa', noting the importance of the resistance's heroic acts that undermined the Israeli enemy army and its agents in the border strip. The conferees then discussed the ramifications of the appearance of gunmen in Ba'labakk on Friday [11 March], which is considered to be a flagrant violation of the law. They also reviewed the measures taken by the military public prosecution office against those who broke the law, particularly since the negative effects of these violations overshadowed the measures of the security agencies tasked with investigating the bombing of the Sayyidat al-Najat Church.

3. His Excellency the prime minister stressed the need for the security agencies to continue their interrogations and security measures until the networks of terrorism and sabotage, which threaten the country's security, are uncovered, particularly since the Lebanese judiciary supervises all these measures. Al-Hariri pointed out that the general amnesty law pardons former criminals but does not prevent the security agencies from investigating previous or subsequent crimes to preserve the country's security. The public attorney said that the general amnesty law was based on the principle that amnesty can be rescinded if a person commits new crimes similar to previous ones. Accordingly, all these criminals remain under watch and can be hunted down for all crimes, including the pardoned ones. At the end of the meeting, al-Hariri expressed his satisfaction with the work of the security agencies and urged them to continue their work and be strict in their interrogations and measures against all violators and criminals, no matter to which party they belong. [end recording]

Minister Defends Security Measures in Ghidras

NC1603132394 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1000 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Text] Interior Minister Bisharah Mirhij has stated that there can be no going back on the security measures, because in addition to expressing the will of the Lebanese people, these measures were the result of a decision by the government and the state institutions, primarily the Army. In an interview with AL-NAHAR, Mirhij said the security operation targets no individual. It covers all parts of the country.

Referring to the so-called siege on Samir Ja'ja', he said there is no siege on Ja'ja'; the proof lies in his receiving people and making statements. He added that the barriers laid around Ghidras could be for the purpose of preventing suspects or wanted people from going to or leaving Ghidras.

Responding to remarks by Ja'ja' that he has no wanted persons, the interior minister said that in this case there is no problem, because the barriers are not against Ja'ja' personally. Why then is every security incident being utilized for political purposes that are contrary to the country's interests? There is an attempt to make the people feel that they are a target of attack. This is wrong. The security operation aims to maintain the security of the citizen, not to harm him.

Mirhij said that reports about legal violations during the detention operations are unfounded speculation, because the security authorities operate under the law.

Asked how long the security measures in Ghidras will continue and whether they are concrete, Mirhij said: When the Army wants to enter, it will enter Ghidras and the home of Ja'ja'. Every Lebanese house is a house for the Army. We will bring out the criminals and security violators from any figure or official's house. He added that talk of making Ja'ja' a hero is supposition. If people go to him, it means he is not under siege. There is no one we would

want to cancel out politically unless he cancels himself out. Let everyone abide by the laws and national accord and no one will cancel him out.

Answering a question, Mirhij denied that the authorities overlooked events in Ba'labakk. He said: We are pursuing the perpetrators. What happened there has been exaggerated to make the state appear biased.

Arrest of Ba'labakk Demonstrators Ordered

NC1503122794 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 15 Mar 94

[Text] The government representative at the military court has instructed all security services to look for those who paraded with weapons in Ba'labakk on 11 March immediately. The security services have been instructed to arrest the demonstrators and refer them to the military court.

The government representative added: If this is not possible, the security services should prepare a statement on the identity and place of residence of the demonstrators and another statement that could assist the investigations.

Resistance Attacks Israeli Patrol in South

NC1503170594 Paris AFP in English 1652 GMT 15 Mar 94

[Text] Sidon, March 15 (AFP)—Iranian-backed guerrillas ambushed an Israeli army patrol in occupied south Lebanon on Tuesday [15 March], provoking retaliatory shelling, security services said.

The Islamic Resistance, Hizballah's armed wing, said "a Merkava tank exploded and a truck fell into the valley in flames" in the attack at the entrance to al-Shaqif Castle in Israel's self-declared security zone.

Lebanese security services confirmed the attack but could provide no information on eventual casualties.

Israeli tanks and artillery then shelled woods and the area around villages opposite the Crusader-era castle while Israeli helicopter gunships machinegunned targets in the region, police said.

There were no immediate reports of casualties following the Israeli attacks.

Hizballah Attacks Israeli Patrol in 'Arnun

NC1503210394 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 15 Mar 94

[Text] This evening resistance men attacked an Israeli patrol in 'Arnun, on the edge of the occupied border strip. Following that, Israeli forces shelled the al-Hamra farm and the area around Qal'at al-Shaqif, where the resistance has positions, using 155-mm shells, as our correspondent in the south reported. The Israeli shelling was accompanied by warplane and helicopter overflights of the region; the planes dropped flares. Two Israeli helicopters raked the valleys of the al-Hamra farm and the area near the attack, for which Hizballah claimed responsibility. There were no reports of casualties.

Earlier, Israeli forces sporadically shelled the hills of Iqlim al-Tuffah, particularly Jabal Safi, Luwayzah, Mlita, and Sujud.

Hizballah Marks International Jerusalem Day

NC1103141194 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1230 GMT 11 Mar 94

[Text] Hizballah has staged a rally in Beirut's Southern Suburb to mark the International Jerusalem Day. Speaking at the rally, Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah stressed the importance of the struggle to liberate Jerusalem and the need to confront the Zionist enemy's attempt to Judaize the holy places. He also demanded Lebanon's withdrawal from the peace negotiations.

Mass marches were held in the suburb's streets, carrying banners denouncing Israel and its aggressive practices.

Explosive Charge Found Outside al-Nab'ah School

NC1603064294 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0549 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Text] We have just been informed by a security source that at about 0600 today, Lebanese Army forces discovered an explosive device primed for detonation outside the al-Taraqqi School in the al-Naba'ah locality. The device was dismantled by a military explosives expert in coordination with the Internal Security Forces.

Papers Comment on Rabin's Washington Visit

JN1603100594 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1545 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Press review]

[Text] TISHRIN carries an editorial about the Israeli prime minister's visit to Washington and the danger facing the peace process as a result of Israeli maneuvers. TISHRIN says: Observers agree that Rabin's visit has two basic objectives: One objective is to paralyze the Security Council so that it will not adopt a resolution against Israel dealing with the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre and providing protection to the defenseless Palestinian people. The other objective is to push the United States to pressure the Palestinians in order to continue negotiations on a separate agreement that entrenches the occupation through settlement building for at least five more years.

TISHRIN stresses that the peace process is in danger and that there is no alternative to an effective international and U.S. move end the impasse. The paper believes that the peace process cannot be rescued by pressuring the Palestinians to implement the Oslo agreement because the Palestinian people have wholly rejected the agreement. Indeed, the peace process can only be rescued by pressuring Israel to return to the bases of the Madrid conference, to move toward a just and comprehensive peace, to discuss the issue of settlements, to evacuate the settlers from the occupied territories, and to remove this daily threat to the Palestinian people.

TISHRIN continues, saying: The peace process was supposed to achieve tangible progress after the Geneva summit. However, the peace process has retreated. This poses legitimate questions about an honest and constructive U.S. role. Why hasn't Washington put the necessary pressure on the rulers of Israel in order to implement the Security Council resolutions? Especially since it is these rulers who prevented the desired progress and are responsible for encouraging Zionist settlers to perpetrate barbaric massacres, the continuation of which will certainly destroy the peace process.

TISHRIN concludes by saying: Many thought that the al-Asad-Clinton summit in Geneva would give a strong push to the peace process, especially since Syria has adhered to all the requirements of the peace process and to achieving a just, comprehensive, and firm peace in the region. However, Rabin's government was not only satisfied with deadlocking the Washington bilateral talks. Indeed, it sought to single out the Palestinian side and impose the Oslo agreement. Then it surprised everyone with the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre to show that Zionism had not changed any of its methods or essence and that Zionism and aggression are two sides of the same coin.

AL-BA'TH also devotes its editorial to Rabin's visit to Washington. Paper says that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's visit and his meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton are aimed at justifying the Hebron massacre and holding others responsible for the lack of progress in the peace process and, hence, gaining more political, financial, and military aid. The paper notes that this visit comes after the Hebron massacre, which was proven to have been executed in arrangement with Rabin's government.

Although Israel is fully convinced that Washington will not allow the Security Council to adopt any resolution that disturbs Tel Aviv. Rabin's government wants more than this from the U.S. Administration. It is clear that Israel wants the United States to help it avoid all possible effects the Hebron massacre could have on Israel.

AL-BA'TH continues, saying: If the Tel Aviv government was seeking to achieve peace, it would have at least responded to the requirements of the peace process by taking at least one step in the right direction. During the peace talks that started in Washington more than two and a half years ago, it became clear that Israel does not want the peace desired by the rest of the world. Instead, Israel is seeking to achieve its interests in the region. Hence, it is continuously avoiding every proposal that could serve the peace process and its objective.

AL-BA'TH says: Israel is circumventing every proposal presented during the peace process by raising side issues that have nothing to do with the essence and that do not serve the peace process whatsoever. This is clearly evident in Israel's avoidance of an announcement of its commitment to the principle of withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories.

AL-BA'TH believes that the peace process, which is suspended because of the Israeli stand, requires a more decisive role by the cosponsors of the peace process, especially from the United States because it has well-known influence on Tel Aviv—the party seeking to derail the peace process.

AL-BA'TH concludes by saying: It is time for the United States to force Israel to face reality, not to overwhelm it with more political support and military and financial aid. This is especially true since achieving a real just and comprehensive peace is supposed to have become even more important.

Press Ridicules Security Council 'Farce'

JN1503172294 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1550 GMT 15 Mar 94

[Text] Damascus, 15 Mar (SANA)—The newspaper AL-BA'TH has stressed that based on its structure, nature, teachings, and ideology, the Zionist entity was established as a fascist entity and will continue to be based on the same firm and declared principles of the mythical Zionist ideology that considers its followers superior to the rest of mankind.

In a comment today, the paper says: Beyond any doubt, old and new Zionist history proves the bloody and terroristic nature of this entity. The Hebron massacre alone provides sufficient proof of the Zionist thought prevailing in Israel.

The paper notes: Zionist settlers did not appear in a vacuum. They have always been the realistic and true embodiment of Israeli policy, since the usurpation of Palestine. These settlers were armed and instructed to usurp Arab territories.

Concluding, the paper says: It is regrettable that many sides in the world still refuse to open their eyes to the Zionist-Israeli fact. The proof is the current farce about the holy al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre, which has been going on for more than two weeks at the UN Security Council.

In its editorial today under the headline "The Hebron Massacre," the newspaper TISHRIN says: The holy al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre has torn all the veils of peace behind which the Rabin government was hiding. The massacre exposed the true nature of this government.

In the article written by its Editor in Chief Muhammad Khayr al-Wadi, the paper stresses: There is no difference between the policy of the Shamir government and that of the Rabin government. They are both hostile to peace, refuse to relinquish the occupied Arab territories, and each of them seeks to achieve the same goal, namely, the establishment of greater Israel.

The paper notes: The whole world expected the international community to take practical and effective measures concerning the Hebron massacre to protect unarmed civilians and to deter aggressors. However, disappointment was great when it was proven that the powers dominating the Security Council are still using double standards every time the issue is related to Israel.

Concluding, the paper says: What happened at the holy al-Ibrahimi Mosque is the logical result of the policy of indifference to Israel, and to spoiling it. The continuation of such a policy will lead to further Zionist massacres and to further disruption of the prospects of achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

Commentary Urges End to 'Zionist Belligerence'

JN1203172494 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 12 Mar 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Grief and sorrow envelop all parts of the occupied Arab territories on the eve of the blessed 'Eid al-Fitr. The Israeli military siege is being tightened on all Arab citizens and is preventing the provision of food, medicine, and basic needs for children and sick people. The Israeli Army continues its acts of repression, torture, and indiscriminate shooting. The injured people number in the scores everyday. The images of the horrifying massacre in the holy al-Ibrahimi Mosque, where worshipers were killed by Zionist settlers while performing their prayers, are still fresh in the minds of the sons of the occupied homeland and remind everyone that there can be no security and comfort until the removal of the Israeli nightmare of occupation. The peace aspired to by the hearts and the souls is very farfetched because Israel, very simply, does not want peace and its objective is to expand and build settlements.

This is in terms of the occupied territories. As for southern Lebanon, the barbaric Israeli bombardment has become a daily practice. This practice intensified in recent days to include as many villages and towns as possible and to cause as much human and material losses as possible.

This is the Israel which falsely claims peace and works against it. This is the Israel which those in the Western world want to raise the banner of peace while they are tempting it with billions of dollars, economic aid, and sophisticated weapons of destruction, are racing to strike military deals with it, and are providing it with nuclear technology. The results are totally the opposite. Israel's arrogance and rejection of peace is building up and its greed for expansion and settlement building is increasing. Israel is using weapons the West is placing in its hands to perpetrate massacres and crimes and to foil the hopes for peace.

While the Security Council is supposed to rise up to its international responsibilities and take the initiative to protect the Palestinian and Lebanese people from Israel's daily crimes, this highest international authority is drowning in the labyrinths of endless deliberations. It is seeking a resolution that satisfies Israel and does not hurt the feelings of its rulers. As for the rulers of Israel, they continue to make misleading statements. They claim peace and concern about the Palestinians while it is known that one of their senior military commanders revealed that the Israeli Army has strict orders not to stand in the way of settlers even if they were shooting at defenseless Arab citizens.

The Washington talks have entered their third year. Not a single Israeli negotiator uttered the word "withdrawal." The Arabs and Syria talked about a full, real, just, and comprehensive peace. No one heard Israel say the word "full withdrawal." Indeed, the Israelis' main concern in Washington was to drown the talks in the labyrinth of their security demands and turn the peace process into mere security arrangements that would guarantee for Israel, in the name of security, the continuation of its occupation, the continuation of acts of repression and terrorism, keeping the settlements and settlers, and the freedom of stockpiling all kinds of weapons. This is at a time when Israeli shells are continuously bombarding southern Lebanon, when Palestinians are being killed while performing their prayers to God, and when any Syrian citizen in the occupied Golan, who affirms his affiliation to Syria and Arabism, is being repressed.

The peace process in Middle East so far has been receiving a response from one side; that is, the Arab side. As for Israel, it did not offer anything and continues to blackmail, evade, prevaricate, and procrastinate. Moreover, it is clear that Israel will not submit to the conditions of a just peace unless the international community makes an effective and decisive move to impose respect for UN principles and resolutions.

Tempting Israel with billions of dollars and arsenals of weapons so far has only yielded opposite results. It added to the arrogance of the rulers of Israel and to their

disregard of all human values. The massacre of the al-Ibrahimi Mosque will continue to be a nightmare that haunts those who encouraged Israel, especially since it will not be the last massacre. Other more horrifying massacres will inevitably be perpetrated if the international community does not put an end to Zionist belligerence by ending the occupation and restoring rights.

Article Examines Syrian-Lebanese Common Market

JN0703211994 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 21 Feb 94 p 3

[Text] The words I heard at the meeting hall of the Government Palace in Beirut on 16 September 1993 during the final meeting of the first session of the Syrian-Lebanese Follow-Up and Coordination Committee are still ringing in my ears. It was said then, with full clarity, that the Economic and Social Coordination and Cooperation Agreement between Syria and Lebanon will make the citizens of both countries feel the importance of what took place. They will sense, through the cancellation of the import permit, which will enable Syrian merchants to import Lebanese goods without a permit, that something important has indeed been achieved this time on the level of bilateral relations, and that all this will reflect positively on the living conditions in both countries.

Since that date, many meetings have taken place at the highest levels, as well as at other levels, and documents, signatures, and ratifications have been exchanged. Recently, on 9 February 1994, the Lebanese paper AL-SHA'B reported that the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies ratified 14 draft laws; foremost, the agreements with Syria. The draft law under Decree No. 4373, which permits the Government to conclude cooperation agreements between Lebanon and Syria, was submitted to the Chamber for discussion and ratified.

Implementation

With this measure, everything has become ready for implementation, especially once the signed, ratified, and legally approved documents have been exchanged. This is a major step forward, because the agreement provides for measures that will lead to economic integration between Syria and Lebanon and the establishment of a Syrian-Lebanese common market, including joint industrial and tourist projects.

Under this agreement, eight committees were formed to carry out production and services projects in all fields.

What Has Been Achieved So Far

Many efforts have been exerted, several meetings have been held, and numerous delegations have come to Syria while others have gone to Lebanon, all pending the moment the implementation will begin. The time is approaching, and in the course of all these activities the two sides have defined the bases for applying the Certificate of Origin, as follows:

- The Arab Certificate of Origin used for facilitating and developing trade between the Arab countries will also be used to certify the national identity of goods exchanged between the two countries.

- In light of the discussions that took place between the two countries concerning the provisions of the Certificate of Origin and the methods of certifying their veracity; and in accordance with the decisions made by the Follow-Up and Coordination Committee during its meeting on 15-16 September 1993 on these subjects, the two sides decided to make the following recommendations:

1. Certificate of Origin:

A. Applying the Certificate of Origin (as per attached) approved under the Agreement on Facilitating and Developing Trade Between the Arab Countries, provided this certificate is endorsed by the customs departments in both countries in accordance with the current procedure between them.

B. Instructing the customs departments in both countries to fix a date in order to put this certificate into effect after these minutes have been ratified by the quarters concerned in both countries and after an agreement has been reached in principle concerning its format and dimensions. The two departments shall conclude their work within a period of two months from this date.

C. The customs departments in both countries shall, when necessary, exchange information about checking the veracity of the Lebanese or Syrian Certificates of Origin. They may take the necessary measures in this regard through coordination—including the exchange of visits—with the competent departments in both countries.

2. Cancellation of Import Permit:

- Canceling the current import permit with regard to the exchange of goods and commodities between the two countries and replacing it in Syria by the Import Approval (as per attached model) under the provisions of Paragraph B of Article 5 of the Economic and Social Cooperation and Coordination Agreement signed between the two countries on 16 September 1993.

- The Syrian side has explained that all products of Lebanese origin can be traded with Syria within the limits of the foreign trade ordinances and the currencies used in Syria, whether or not these products are included in the lists attached to the 1953 agreement. Exemptions from and reductions of customs duties are incorporated in these lists.

- The Lebanese side explained that all commodities of Syrian origin can be traded with Lebanon and also imported in accordance with the existing laws in Lebanon, and that exemptions from and reductions of customs duties are also incorporated in the lists attached to the 1953 agreement.

The Joint Economic Committee

On 10 January 94, a Lebanese economic delegation led by Lebanese Economy Minister Hagop Demerdjian visited Damascus. A meeting was held at the Economy Ministry in Damascus under the chairmanship of the ministers of economy and foreign trade of both countries. The meeting was attended by Nasri Khuri, secretary general of the Higher Syrian-Lebanese Council, and members of the Syrian and Lebanese delegations. As a result of this meeting, it was decided:

1. To form the Joint Economic Committee provided for in Clause (i) Paragraph (B) of Article (4) of the Economic and Social Cooperation and Coordination Agreement under the cheirmanship of the two ministers of economy in both countries and the representatives of the competent departments. The committee shall undertake the following tasks:

2. To discuss the scientific means and formulas needed to implement the Economic and Social Cooperation and Coordination Agreement signed between the two countries on 16 Sepember 1993, especially Paragraph (B) of Article (2) which deals with:

A. Coordinating the internal costs of national goods exchanged between the two countries in order to achieve parity in these costs, and therefore free the goods from any restrictions..

B. Proceeding gradually toward the free exchange of national goods and commodities between the two countries and freeing these goods and commodities fropm any restrictions in accordance with the lists of commodities and products whose internal costs have been equated and endorsed by the Economic Committee established under this agreement.

C. Coordinating all other fields of economic cooperation, especially the transfer of capital between the two countries in order to free trade between them and to enable them to establish joint ventures.

D. Enabling nationals of both countries to carry out all types of economic and professional activities to ensure equal opportunities for them in accordance with existing laws and regulations.

E. Encouraging the establishment of joint economic ventures, taking into consideration the coordination and standardization of privileges, securities, facilities, and exemptions, and applying in this regard the provisions of existing laws, including those concluded within the framework of the Arab League and its affiliate organizations.

F. Coordinating economic and trade cooperation with the other states and regional and international organizations.

G. Revising the lists attached to the economic agreement signed between the two countries in 1953 with the view to expanding and developing these lists.

It was also decided that the two sides will submit their ideas on how to achieve these tasks gradually, provided attention is given to the following priorities:

A. Specifying the topics and questions dealing with trade and the proposed solutions for them.

B. Revising the commodity lists attached to the economic agreement of 1953 with the view to developing and expanding them in line with the economic developments in both countries.

C. Studying the minutes of the technical committee with the view to defining the bases for applying the certificate of origin. Each side will inform the other of its own ideas through the general secretariat of the Higher Syrian-Lebanese Council within a period of one month from this date prior to discussing these ideas in the meeting which is scheduled to take place in Beirut at a date to be fixed by the secretary general.

India

Paper Views Use of Super 301, Clinton 'Megalomania'

BK1603033694 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 9 Mar 94 p 8

[Editorial: "Unipolar Economics"]

[Text] With the resurrection of US law Super 301 last week, President Bill Clinton has earned the distinction of being the most "garrulous salesman" of American auto parts, life insurance, and telecommunications. The Democratic President has decided to woo big business away from the traditional Republican camp by acquiring the legal power to wage trade retaliation on its behalf. The immediate objective is to bring Japan to heel. But judging by the clarification issued by the administration that the intention is to issue a "symbolic rather than a real threat", Washington is in no hurry to risk a trade war with a nation that can say no. It is clear that given the prevailing mood in Japan, where the Morihiro Hosokawa Government is under severe political pressure to stand its ground, the outrageous American demand for handing over a predetermined share of the domestic market, will have to be toned down. Even so, the "symbolic threat" is significant. It seeks to pin down Japan to bilateral trade negotiations, and abjure redressal from the multilateral GATT dispute settlement mechanism. In a unipolar world, not just Japan, no nation dare demur. Washington has clarified that Super 301 has not been revived for trade retaliation against any one country which means it can be directed against any country the US chooses to.

The lone voice of protest against Clinton's megalomania has come from Peter Sutherland, the director-general of GATT. But he has phlegmatically pointed merely to the "risk" to multilateralism when actually it is being aborted. True, the powerful European Commission is opposed to bilateralism. But Brussels wants trilateralism. This means carving the Japanese market between Europe and the US. Why, for instance, should Motorola Inc. of US alone get the whole of the foreign share of the telecommunications market of Japan? What about Ericsson of Sweden? Europe is riding piggyback on the US. Japan is asked to make its telecommunications technology compatible with those the US and European companies have developed, including some nearing obsolescence. But no one talks of America and Europe making their technologies compatible with Japanese ones. Compatibility has a cost: who should bear it, the exporter, wanting a market, or the importer? The American-European gang-up is ominous for countries like India.

In December last year, the developing countries fell in line with the iniquitous Dunkel draft in order to ensure multilateralism and free trade. In less than three months, the rich countries are racing to carve up the world in a manner reminiscent of the colonial powers of the 19th century. What is on is not merely a war among the giants. The US is having second thoughts on the 10-year MFA [multi-fiber agreement] agreement on textiles. It proposes to auction import quotas for textiles (from India and others) to American firms. This is nothing short of an import duty on textiles. With GATT in hibernation, bully Clinton is unstoppable.

Visit of U.S. Envoy 'Expected' To Lead to Rao U.S. Visit

BK1103134694 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 3 Mar 94 p 12

[By our diplomatic editor]

[Text] New Delhi, March 2:- The talks here later this month between U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia Robin Raphel and Indian officials on Indo-American relations are expected to pave the way for the Prime Minister's trip to Washington towards the middle of the year.

Ms. Raphel, who has become controversial due to her statements questioning the validity and finality of Kashmir's accession to India, and who insists on visiting India shall be extended due courtesies. She will be able to meet officials as well as political leaders during her five-day stay from March 22. She has even sought a meeting with the Prime Minister, which could not be arranged earlier when she left India to take up her new assignment in the State Department.

The U.S. Government is currently engaged in a damage limitation exercise following Ms. Raphel's unwelcome pronouncements and has assured the Indian Government that no anti-India bias or pro-Pakistan tilt has overtaken the Clinton Administration and that relations with India remain strong and are bound to grow. Some of President Clinton's remarks regarding Kashmir and human rights must be viewed in the context of U.S. domestic policy compulsions and not in that of Indo-American relations, which continue to expand.

As regards Kashmir, the U.S. always believed that the issue should be resolved bilaterally by India and Pakistan under the Simla Agreement and Washington is not projecting itself as a mediator. It has no strategic interests in the State but desires that the problem be resolved in the interest of peace and stability of the subcontinent.

The External Affairs Ministry was initially lukewarm to Ms. Raphel's visit and did not agree to any of the dates suggested by her. President Clinton's as well as Ms. Raphel's remarks were appropriately responded to and their criticism rebutted. However, the new Foreign Secretary, Mr. K. Srinivasan, as well as the External Affairs Minister, Mr. Dinesh Singh, took the view that points of difference should not spoil the otherwise sound relations between the world's two largest democracies and that there are areas where India and the U.S. should work jointly and effectively. Discussions could be held to find common ground and they could even agree to disagree on some points. A discussion could help articulate each other's concerns and remove misconceptions which were often at the root of mispronouncements.

It is thus clear that the Indian officials shall be willing to listen to what Ms. Raphel has to say in the hope that she too will be in a mood to hear patiently what they have to say. The Clinton Administration's South Asia policy has been articulated repeatedly by Ms. Raphel and other officials and hence its reiteration is not necessary. Any impression that the present Administration has a closed mind on subjects such as Kashmir, human rights, and nuclear non-proliferation will not further the Indo-U.S. dialogue. Both sides must be prepared to listen to each other's point of view and appreciate mutual concerns.

The Indian Government is appreciative of U.S. support for its economic liberalisation policies and feels that there ought to be no reasons for relations between the two countries to be strained on the economic level as these continue to be strong and friendly. U.S. is India's largest trading partner and overseas investor. Therefore, the relations between the two countries should not be determined only on the political level where differences of opinion exist. For a balanced view these should be judged both on economic and political levels. The economic relations could become more friendly and deep and sincere effort made to remove irritants on the political front.

Notice has also been taken of Ms. Raphel's recent observation that it is not correct to say that Indo-U.S. relations have soured because of public disagreement over issues, such as Kashmir. "The reality is much beyond disagreements we may have. It also includes close cooperation in education, culture, science and technology and our rapidly growing commercial relations."

At the same time the Indian side makes it clear that any arm twisting on Kashmir shall not be entertained. If the U.S. had any doubts about the unanimity of public opinion on this issue those must have been removed by the Parliamentary resolution asserting that Kashmir is an inalienable part of India and Pakistan must vacate the area under its illegal occupation since 1947. No Government can side-step the resolution and negotiate Kashmir's status and still hope to survive. However, agreements are possible on such issues as demilitarisation of the Siachen area and Sir Creek, Tulbul Barrage, nuclear confidence building measures and the like, on which concrete proposals have been sent by India to Pakistan.

As regards nuclear and missile non-proliferation in South Asia, notice has been taken of President Clinton's own observation that the U.S. and others "take into account both Indian and Pakistani domestic political concerns and regional security threat perceptions, including those extending beyond the two countries themselves."

Demonstrators Present Petition at U.S. Embassy

BK1503160694 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 15 Mar 94

[Text] A demonstration was held outside the American Embassy in New Delhi today to protest against the U.S. Government's policy to support the terrorist activities of Pakistan in Jammu and Kashmir. The demonstrators led by a former minister and chairman of Rashtriya Ekta Nirman Shakti, Mr. Anil Shastri, handed over a memorandum to the embassy which called for noninterference in India's internal affairs and stopping support to Pakistan for its terrorist activities in India.

Iran

U.S.' 'Unconditionally Supportive' Policy of Israel Noted

NC1603090894 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Commentary by news research and commentary group]

[Text] While the United States continues its serious efforts not to accept any UN resolution against the Zionist regime that would guarantee international security for the Palestinians, the White House diplomatic apparatus has spared no effort for the resumption of the talks between the compromising Palestinians and Arab countries and the Zionist regime.

Within this framework, U.S. President Bill Clinton spoke to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and asked him to decide on a new date for talks with Israel. In a telephone conversation, Warren Christopher also called on Yasir 'Arafat to begin negotiations with the Zionist regime. Dennis Ross, the U.S. coordinator in the compromising talks, endorsed the issue in his meeting with 'Arafat in Tunis.

With this concerted effort, the United States is seeking to salvage the Zionist regime and to depict the blood of the victims of the catastrophic massacre of the fasting Muslim worshipers in the al-Ibrahimi shrine in occupied Palestine as worthless. The more the level of the direct involvement of the Zionist regime's armed forces in the tragedy of the massacre of the Palestinians transpires, and new documentary evidence continues to emerge, the greater the White House effort to support the terrorist echelons in Israel.

U.S. President Bill Clinton is quite unattentive to the wounded sensitivities of the Palestinian Muslim nation and the indignation of the international public and the people of the Islamic world and is ignoring the repeated violations of human rights and international norms by the Tel Aviv officials. He is expected to meet Yitzhaq Rabin, the Zionist regime's prime minister, at the White House. Rabin has met the U.S. secretaries of state and defense in Washington and had military and political coordination with them.

It is being stated that this Friday, that is, three weeks after Hebron, finally, the Security Council will issue a resolution regarding the killing of the fasting worshipers at the shrine of the Prophet Abraham, peace be upon him. Since the incident, a resolution has repeatedly been promised; in practice, it has not been issued, due to U.S. opposition.

It appears unlikely that this promise will be fulfilled to mitigate people's anger over the meeting between the U.S. President and the terrorist head of the Zionist regime. Washington's unconditionally supportive policy for the Zionist regime's officials, which can have no other effect

but to enhance their audacity to suppress the Palestinian Muslims, remains a source of concern.

Commentary Assesses U.S. 'Influence,' 'Intervention'

LD1503204394 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 15 Mar 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] After the lapse of two weeks since the massacre of Palestinian worshipers at the al-Khalil mosque, convening of the UN Security Council has, once again, been delayed. Hence, issuance of a resolution condemning Israel, too, has been postponed another time.

The negligence on the part of the Security Council, in its capacity as an international legislative body, in issuing a condemnation on the tragedy, involving the massacre of scores of innocent human beings, undoubtedly points to a bitter event. This shows the influence and intervention of the United States in this international forum, which is supposed to redress the wrongdoings against world masses.

Over the past fortnight, the United States has embarked on a widespread effort to pressure the PLO leaders in a bid to restart the stalemated talks between the PLO and Tel Aviv. Also, by pressuring the Security Council, America has prevented the issuance of even a ceremonial resolution in condemnation of the Zionist regime. Following the massacre in the mosque of prophet Abraham, the PLO, by withdrawing from the talks with Israel, has made resumption of the negotiations subject to fulfilment of a number of conditions. The PLO conditions for returning to the talks call for the presence of armed international observers in the occupied regions, disarmament of the Jews resident in settlements, and guarantee of the Palestinians' security.

In the opinion of political observers, these conditions have been set forth for securing the concession from Israel rather than blocking the already stalemated talks process on Gaza and Jerico. However these conditions have come to face an ultimatum from the Washington-Tel Aviv axis. This is why the United States has said that issuance of any resolution in condemnation of Israel will be subject to withdrawal of the conditions set by the PLO leaders. In fact, one has doubts about the U.S. warning given to the PLO leaders that in the event of nonwithdrawal of their conditions, Washington will veto the Security Council resolution.

In the opinion of political analysts, efforts are being made so that no concession may be taken from Israel and no mention made in the Security Council resolution of Israeli crimes and breach of human rights in the occupied lands; the subject of Beyt ol-Moqqadas will also be ignored. These are the matters which can well be observed in the Israeli lobby and in its influence in the White House.

Irrespective of the type of U.S.-Israel ties, what is regretted by the world public opinion is the UN role in its capacity as the highest authority and as a shelter for the world nations. Regrettably this role, on account of U.S. interventions, aimed at giving a specific direction to it, has been turned into an ineffective one, making the UN a tool of the United States.